Dourthe

admits

his guilt

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Guide to the world, part 3 Section Two.



Driven to violence

The menace of road rage

Section Two, page 1



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THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 1996 Graduate appointments

Section Two, pages 27-34

# Deadlock on arms dashes peace hopes

#### Major accused of 'buying' votes

and DAVID MCKITTRICK Hopes of breaking the deadlock

in the Northern Ireland peace process ran into serious trouble last night after the nationalist parties accused John Major of trying to buy votes from the Ulster Unionists to prop up his Government in the Commons.

The Irish and British Governments were facing a crisis in the peace process after the report by US Senator George Mitchell had raised hopes of a hreakthrough The report warned it was a critical time in the history of Northern Ireland, which could "slip hack to the horror of the past quarter-century" if progress was not made.

The report failed to provide any new solution to the deadlock over the IRA's refusal to begin decommissioning weapons.

The Government proposed an alternative way out by holding elections to a new Ulster body to appoint negotiating teams. But that plan looked doomed after John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, accused Mr Major of trying to buy the sup-port of the Ulster Unionist MPs to safeguard his Com-

mons majority. Mr Hume was booed by Tory MPs who accused him of making a "cheap" allegation. Tory

MPs shouted: "Disgrace" Mr Major warned him that after working for years to bring people together for peace, it would be "a tragedy of enor-mous proportions" if he became the harrier to a settlement.

The Irish Government was also sceptical and was privately concerned about the election strategy, which Dublin sources said had been inadequately discussed. "There's nothing in it for the nationalists," said one Dublin source. Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, said it would mean those who supported the idea would have to persuade those who did not.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, accused Mr Ma-jor of acting in bad faith and of erecting new preconditions to keep his party out of all-party talks. Republican sources said the election announcement had effectively killed off the both routes to all-party talks – Mitchell report and showed prior decommissioning and the Mr Major was following a Unionist agenda to win Union-

ist backing for the Government. The election move overshadowed the report of the internal body and introduced a

#### Six commitments al parties should make

Democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues. ■ The total disarmament of all paramilitary organisa-

Agree that disarmament must be verifiable.

Renounce the use or threat of force to influence the course or the outcome of all-party negotiations. Agree to abide by the terms of any agreement reached in all-party negotiations, and to use exclusively peaceful methods to try to alter any part of it with which they dis-

■ Urge that 'punishment' killings and beatings stop, and to take effective ste to prevent these.

stark fault line, with the Government and Unionists on one side and Nationalists on the other. Dublin sources accused Mr Major of ditching the report and of going on a "solo run", which had raised suspicions

across the range of nationalism. Mr Major last night sought to ease nationalist fears by insisting the body would be restricted to appointing negotiating teams and would not have legislative or administrative powers, such as a power-sharing Stormont Government.

would not meet the British demand to begin decommissioning arms before Sinn Fein was

admitted to all-party talks.

Ministers fear the rejection of elections - could leave the peace process in a cul-de-sac. The Government may seek to move on with the elections, challenging the parties to show their commitment to democra-

cy by taking part.
Mr Hume stopped short of a threal to boycoli elections, but his rejection of the plan, which was proposed first by the Ulster Unionists, could cause a fresh crisis in the peace process.

Mr Major, who urged the parties to "take a risk for peace", had been pinning his hopes on breaking the deadlock on the plan to use the elections to bring Sinn Fein to the negotiating table. The talks could take place at the same time as the IRA began disposing of its weapons before independent observers. It won the support of the Ulster Unionists and the hard-line Democratic Unionist MPs, led by Ian Paisley.

The Prime Minister told the Commons the Government would discuss the concerns with all the parties about the plan. But in a democratic system like ours, I cannot see how elections could be regarded by any of the parties as a side issue or as a

block to progress."| Tony Blair, the Lahour leader, offered bipartisan support to enable an emergency hill to be passed to call the elections by April or May. But some of his own MPs, led by former Northern Ireland spokesman Kevin McNamara, rejected the election plan and accused Mr Major of seeking to keep power with Unionist support.

New focus same crisis, page 15 Andrew Marr, page 2

#### Harman apologises for political damage and distress



# Blair's appeal defuses revolt

DONALD MACINTYRE and PATRICIA WYNN-DAVIES

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, yesterday stifled a destablising campaign to unseat his shadow Harriet Harman, with a passionate call on his party to recover the unity needed to defeat the Tories.

Mr Blair, faced with a po-tentially catastrophic revolt over Ms Harman's controversial decision to send her 11-year-old son to a grammar school, reimposed his will on the party with warning that he would not hand the Conservatives "the scalp" they were seeking. .

Mr Blair's decisive victory at a highly-charged 70-minute meeting of MPs which exposed deep divisions in the party came after Ms Harman apologised for Mitchell details, page 2 the political damage and "dis-

tress" inflicted by the row but stood firm on her right to have made the choice. But Ms Harman's supporters were astounded when Bernie Grant, the left-wing MP for Tottenham, Secretary of State for Health, made a powerful speech backing Ms Harman during which he excoriated the "appalling" standard of comprehensive schooling in inner-city London.

Mr Blair at one point de-scribed the Tories as "bastards" and declared: "I'm not going to allow the Tories the pleasure of crucifying any member of my Shadow Cabinet ... you must stand firm". Ms Harman went on to tough

out Tory attempts to derail her with a sure-footed performance, leading a Commons health debate flanked by Mr Blair and leading members of the Shadow Cahinet - including John Prescott, the party's deputy



of his colleagues, is known to have been privately angered by Ms Harman's decision. Mr Prescott, who throughout the episode has conspicuously

failed to back Ms Harman personally, nevertheless sought yesterday to draw a line under the episode in his speech to the PLP meeting. He urged the party to unite hehind Mr Blair's Ms Harman's decision, correleadership and focus their en- spondence flowing into the parergy on two forthcoming by elections, in Hemsworth and Staffordshire South East.

But while Mr Blair unequivocally reasserted his party's commitment to non-selective comprehensive education, Cabinct ministers emerged from a meeting on political strategy determined to capitalise, between now and the general election, on the charges of "hypocrisy" provoked by Ms Harman's choice of a selective school.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party's chairman, said Mr Blair could not sack Ms Harman because he was using her as a "human shield" as he himself had

Forte plan to buy back

sent his older son to a comprehensive which selected by in-

But despite the widespread anger within Labour ranks over ly suggested that while there was deep unrest among activists. there was much more support for Ms Harman among the

electorate at large.

Mr Blair told the meeting "These decisions are bound to cause anguish. Many parents in this room have been faced with similar decisions and taken them differently. but we should respect the decisions that any individual takes. The issue, however, is no longer about Harriet and her child, but how we handle ourselves in this difficult period. Let me make it clear what

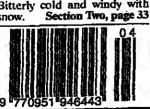
Continued on page 2

#### IN BRIEF

#### New man is old hat The new man of the 1980s has failed to make it into the 1990s ~eight out of 10 women still always or usually do the washing

High price of the Euro Too tough conditions for the creation of a European single currency - the Euro - could damage European economies and the stability of the EU itself, Valery Giscard d'Estaing Page 11

Today's weather Bitterly cold and windy with



## Child bride ordered back to Britain

STEVE BOGGAN and HUGH POPE

A High Court judge vesterday ordered the return to Britain of 13-year-old bride Sarah Cook as the girl's Turkish husband was remanded in custody on a charge of statutory rape. Sarah's mother, Jackie, 37,

flew to southern Turkey last night, admitting that she may have been wrong to consent to the illegal marriage and adding: "All I want to do now is get my daughter home."
Sir Stephen Brown, President

of the Family Division of the High Court, made Sarah a ward of court at the request of Essex County Council's social services department. After a 30minute hearing, he ordered her to be returned to the court's ju-

manded that any passport on which she travels home should he surrendered.

Sir Stephen's wide-ranging order also forbade Mrs Cook and her husband, Adrian, 42, from taking Sarah out of the country again and from talking about her case to the press. They are already understood to have earned more than £20,000 from selling her story to the Sun. The schoolgirl from Brain-

tree, Essex, was besieged by journalists yesterday in the cramped apartment she shares with her 18-year-old husband, Musa Komeagae - who she married in an unofficial ceremony two weeks ago - and his parents in Kahramanmaras. south eastern Turkey

on charges of repeated statutory rape and suspected abduction of a minor and was remanded in custody for 30 days. His lawyers argued that the marriage took place with the consent of both sets of parents, although the minimum age for any marriage in Turkey - and then only with the special dis-

pensation of a judge - is 14. Musa's father said: "The two of them love each other madly. Because they insisted, the two families agreed. We love Sarah as our daughter. The English should not be worried. Love knows no law or boundary."

The English ruling is not binding in Turkey hut there were indications last night that the authorities would recognise Meanwhile, her husband was it. Before leaving for the airport,

risdiction "forthwith" and de- brought before a Turkish court Mrs Cook said: "Looking hack, perhaps letting Sarah get married was the wrong thing to do. but everyone makes mistakes. All I want to do now is get my daughter home."

Earlier in the day, however, Sarah had told the Sun: "If they keep Musa in jail, I will kill myself because I can't live without him." Musa's Jawyer. Selim Sumen, also has an interest in her staying. He said: "Musa's only hope of getting out of prison is if they can apply to a court for special permission to marry when she is 14."

A Turkish foreign ministry spokesman said Sarah's visa was valid for a further three months. "At this stage, we could only forcibly remove her from Turkey at the request of her parents." Leading article, page 14

George V in Paris.

a meeting yesterday with Gerry Robinson, the chief executive of Granada, convened to discuss

#### top hotels for £2.5bn the handover of Forte, follow-A spokesman for Forte said

The Forte family last night unveiled a radical proposal to buy back the upmarket hotels it lost to Granada, in a deal that could be worth £2.5bn.

The dramatic announcement, which came after the market closed, would see Sir Rocco Forte and the Forte dynasty reclaim some of the world's hest-known hotel properties, including the Grosvenor House in London and the

Sir Rocco raised the plan at

hostile £3.8bn battle.

Granada has promised to sell Forte's Meridien, Exclusive and trophy hotels, to pay off the £2.5bn in deht it took on to finance the hostile takeover. It intends to keep the budget Travelodge chain and the mid-market Posthouse properties.

In a statement issued last night, Sir Rocco said: "I am leading a team working on a plan to purchase from Granada the hotel business of Forte other than Posthouses and Travelodge. My objective is to make a detailed proposal to Grana-

ing its defeat in a two-month Sir Rocco and his family would use the £300m praceeds from the sale of their own stake in Forte to Granada as equity in said the offer would he a highly leveraged buyout, reminiscent of the takeovers of the 1980s. There will be a lot of debt to pay down if they pull this off." No financing is yet in place. Forte conceded last night. But a spokesman said that "discussions about financing were encouraging". He added that the Forte family would seek a stock market listing in future if their audacious offer is accepted.

BUSINESS 16-20 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORD 24 LAW REPORT 12 LEADING ARTICLES 14 LETTERS 14 NEWS 2-11 OBITUARIES 12 SHARES 19 SPORT 21-24 UNIT TRUSTS 20

ARTS 12,13 CHESS 34 CROSSWORD 34 DILEMMAS 6 EDUCATION 22-25 FILM 8-11 LIFE 7 LISTINGS 32,33 REVIEWS 12,13 TELEVISION & RADIO 35,36 WEATHER 33

da in coming weeks."

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# Feast for N Ireland as Major eats his words

stance and look a bigger man as they have - just as they, rather a result. Yesterday in the Commons he walked backwards and on the silly verbal argument grew in stature at the same time about whether the ceasefire was an impressive manoeuvre. permanent or total. His acceptance that decomweaponry might be carried out while political talks were continuing, is a clear retreat. But it

from the very first private conversations that led to the peace process. But the IRA didn't hudge an inch.

It has been rare to see John Ma-jor retreat on an issue of sub-maynew were prepared, however arms before talks "will not hap-reluctantly, to think again. Now pen" But he swallowed all that than the IRA, eventually moved

It is never easy for politicians missioning of Irish terrorist to eat their words, but complicated oegotiation hetween previously unreconcilable enemies requires a lot of it. And the was a virtuous one and a nec- Prime Minister eats his very nicely. He was generous, smooth The old position that arms and sensible as he consumed the had to be surrendered before old precondition. He zig-zagged the political talks started was and moralised as he approached considered essential by London the only word of his statement that really mattered: "However." But he cot there.

> He cannot have liked some things he read in the Mitchell

too. As he told a questioner in the Commons: "There is something in this report which is uncomfortable for every party in these negotiations.

Whatever the discomfort, there is no escaping the logic underlying the idea of elections followed by talks-with-decommissioning: "If there can be oo talks before arms decommissioning has started, and if arms decommissioning cannot start, why then - both must happen at the same time."

The question now is over the form of the body which David Trimhle, the Ulster Unionist leader, wants to see elected by May. He already seems a new



tain. But he and Mr Major have to produce some kind of constitutional assembly which will reassure the nationalists that it exists not to administer the status quo, but to move the politics of the Province on.

Oddly, it may seem, the moderate nationalists in Dublin and in the SDLP were more worried about the elected assembly than Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein. It has been clear for months Report, with its unequivocal kind of Unionist leader - fast-that Mr Major and Sir Patrick statement that the surrender of moving, assertive, and self-cer-lar of the peace process, was in essential to any final deal. So examination, so that the police

uncharacteristically belligerent and ungracious mood, suggesting in the Commons that Mr Major was now in the pocket of the Unionists. He may suspect. it. He has no evidence for it.

There are, of course, good reasons for moderate nationalists to flinch. Mr Hume has serious political problems if elections go ahead, including the prospect of his SDLP being out-played and out-spent in an electoral battle with Sinn Fein for the nationalist vote. That would be a sorry reward for his courage 18 months ago.

The SDLP is also worned about the smaller Unionist parties with paramilitary links being excluded from any new elected hody; however un-

tween the Unionists, who won't handled them. Handguns attend immediate talks without should be destroyed; amnisties decommissioning; and the on possession of illegal weapons SDLP, who don't want elections should be established in both before talks.

What the three eminent outsiders of the Mitchell Commission have done is to reassert the urgency and primacy of political movement and therefore tilt the argument towards the creation of an elected body Their short report makes the

terrorist weapons seem suddenly more plausible. For the British jurisdiction in modern times, its proposals are genuinely radical; for instance. arms handed over should be ex-

handing-over of at least some

there has been a stand-off be- learn nothing about who had parts of Ireland. Yes, one thinks,

this might actually happen. Whether it does, and how soon, now rests with two parties above all. The Ulster Unionists have a duty to ensure that their proposed elected body is sufficiently focused and limited to be acceptable to the national-ists; and then the SDLP, however suspicious, have a duty to

agree and to participate. This will cause discomfort for both David Trimble and John Hume. They too will have to eat. past words. But both are big fig-ures; and the faster old words are chewed and swallowed, the

MPs rap 'Guardian' over Aitken fax Peter Preston, former editor of The Guardian, escaped punishment yesterday for doctoring Commons notepaper to ohtain

a hotel bill incurred by the Tory MP Jonathan Aitken. The Commons Privileges Committee said it accepted Mr Preston's apology that sending the "cod fax" was "a stupid and discourteous thing to have done" and his assurance he would not do it again.

IN BRIEF

Mr Preston sent the fax as part of his newspaper's efforts to establish who paid for Mr Aitken's stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris owned by Mohammed Al Fayed. It purported to come from Mr Aitken and was a intended to protect Mr Fayed, who was co-operating with the

paper, from accusations of breaking e client's confidence.
The committee concluded that Mr Preston and The Guardian were "guilty of unwise and improper conduct".

Conveyancing move The Law Society's ruling council will today decide their next move over a scheme to ban cutprice conveyancing after leadng counsel advised the plan is within the law. The scheme, devised by the president Martin Mears and his deputy Robert Sayer - and questioned by the the Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham - will take away insurance from any firm which undercuts recommended fee levels for house deals.

£2m 'skunk' haul

Police seized more than 2,000 powerful cannabis plants known as "skunk weed" valued at more than £2m in a raid on a drugs farm on an industrial estate in Widnes, Cheshire. Three men were arrested.

#### Polar melt alert

An area of Antarctic ice the size of Norfolk has melted into the sea since 1945 due to rising temperatures, according to research by the British Antarctic Survey which suggests the trend will continue. In the past 50 years the local temperature at the South Pole has risen by 2.5C causing 8,000 sq km of the ice shelf to break off.

#### Baby breakthrough

Scientists from the National Institute for Medical Research at University College, in London, have made a "milestone" discovery which may lead to more test-tube baby conceptions by finding a protein in sperm which triggers a fertilised egg turning into an embryo, the Medical Research Council said.

#### Power record

Demand for electricity met a Wales on Tuesday as temperatures plunged and high winds sent an icy blast over much of the country. The National Grid said demand soared to 48,029 megawatts - equivalent to 48 million one-bar electric fires beating the previous record of 47,929 set in January, 1987.

#### Shop raids alert

The number of shop robberies and till snatches rose dramatically last year with the total cost of all crimes against retailers reaching £2bn, says a survey by the British Retail Consortium.

#### Sinclair fights ban

Football star Trevor Sinclair was fined £480 and banned for 12 months after admitting drink-driving. The QPR striker was caught over the limit when driving a friend's car 30 yards, Preston magistrates were told. The England Under-21 international had the ban suspended pending an appeal.

#### Water safety first

Scottish Office environment minister, Lord Lindsay, an-nounced that a borehole in Fife is to be designated a nitrate vulnerable zone in the British Government's first scheme to safeguard water from nitrate pollution in response to a European directive aimed at protecting drinking water supplies.

#### 'Poverty' wage row

Labour hit out at the "scandal" of low pay after a vacancy for a trainee landscape gardener was advertised in a JobCentre in Chorley, Lancashire, offering a wage of £1 an hour. The advert attracted one applicant.

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**Mitchell report:** Call for differences on de-commissioning not to obscure widespread support for disarmament

# **'Ceasefire** must not be undervalued'

DAVID MCKITTRICK Ireland correspondent

lican and loyalist ceasefires had lasted almost a year and a half - saying that despite "punishment killings and beatings. the sustained observance of and confidence." the ceasefires should not be un-

dervalued. It said that differences oo the timing and context of decommissioning should not obscure the near-universal support that existed for the total and verifiable disarmament of all para-

military organisations. The report said that to reach an agreed political settlement there had to be commitment to fundamental principles of democracy and non-violence. It set out six such principles, including a commitment to extotal and verifiable disarmament of all paramilitary groups and the urging of an end to all "punishment" killings and beatings. It said parties should commit themselves that opposition to aov new agreement should be

confined to peaceful methods. The report concluded there was a clear commitment on the the use of plastic bullets and the work constructively towards decommissioning, but added that they would not do so prior to all-

party negotiations. It said the latter point was the organisations and individuals are convinced that it will not confidence."

happen. That is the reality with which all concerned must deal." The report declared: "As

The Mitchell report made the opening point that the repubsus, even modest mutual stees on decommissioning could help create the atmosphere occided for further steps in a progressive pattern of mounting trust

Dealing with decommissioning itself, the report said the process should suggest neither victory nor defeat. "Amnesties should he established in law in hoth jurisdictions. Armaments made available for decommissioning, whether directly or indirectly, should be exempt in law from forensic examination. Information obtained as a result of the decommissioning process should be inadmissible as evidence in courts of law."

In addition to its recommeodations, the report listed a oumclusively peaceful means, the ber of ideas that could build confidence: paramilitary groups could eod surveillance of possible targets, provide informa-tioo about those missing and believed dead, and lift threats against people. Measures for the authorities to consider included action oo prisoners, a review of emergency legislation, -up of the Ro

Ulster Constabulary. The report added that several submissions had raised the idea of an elected body. It noted: "If it were broadly acceptable, with view of the vast majority of the an appropriate mandate, and within the three-strand (ie which had made submissions to Belfast-London-Dublin) strucit, adding: "Many favour (pri-ture, an elective process could or decommissioning) hut they contribute to the building of



Wise men: George Mitchell (centre) with General John de Chastelain (left) and Harri Holiteri delivering their report yesterday Photograph:Crispin Rodwell

#### George Mitchell, 61

A former Senator who serves on a number of corporate boards and lectures at colleges and universities throughout US. Appointed to the Senate in Muskie, resigning as a federal judge to take up the post before being re-elected in 1982 and 1988. As senator, elected as Senate mejority leader in three consecutive Congresses. Leading light on environmental issues, he led effort for 1990 Clean Air Act. US District Court Judge from 1979 to 1980 and US Attorney for Maine in 1977 to 1979. Bom in Waterville, Maine, served in Berlin as US Army counter-intelligence officer. Married to a husinesswoman, Heather MacLachlen, and has one daugh-

ter. Anthea, by a previous marriage.

#### General John de Chastelain, 58

Was first appointed Chief of the Canadian Defence Staff in 1989, a post he held until 1993, when he transferred to the reserves and was eppointed recalled to active duty and reappointed to defence staff. It was the crowning moment of military career which began in 1955 as a private in the Canadian Army Militia. In 1965 he served as a company commander in the United Nations Force In Cyprus, rising to command e battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from 1970 to 1972. Ha is a past president of the Dominion of Canada Rifla Association and a former vice president of the Scouts of Canada. With wife Mary, he has a son, a daughter and two grand-daughters.

his former position as leader of

Haringey council in north Lon-

don had made that unthinkable.

one now 20 and twins of 18, the

sense of disappointment is

palpahle from a man coce

regarded as a high priest of political correctness.

Haringey school that is still at-

tended by one of the twins, who

is studying for A-levels with the help of £20 an hour private tu-

ition to "get him up to scratch". The other twin is training as

a chef. The 20-year-old was on

a design course hut is currently

very seriously hampered" by the

quality of their schooling, and hlamed not only a question of

resources through cuts in

He said his sons were "very

ucemployed.

He declined to name the

The father of three sons.

#### Harri Holkeri, 58

To be prime minister of Finland from 1987 to 1991 was the culmination of a long political career for Hami Holkeri. He rose to prominence in politics as 1965, becoming chairman in 1971 until 1979. He became an MP in 1970, serving as a member of the foreign affairs committee and chairing the parliamentary supervisors of the Bank of Finland. In the two years which preceded his move into politics in the mid-1960s he was a member of the Finnish delagation at the UN, e year after graduating from Helsinki University in 1962. He holds the rank of major in the Reserve Army and has a son, daughter and three grandchildren from his memiage to Marja-Lisa In 1960.

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# this is now about. The Tories are

Ms Harman went oo: "I understand the strength of feeling and deeply regret the distress that has been caused."

She insisted she was "opposed" to selection, but said: "I was faced with a difficult choice and each of us has to solve the problems faced by providing good schooling for our children in our own way. I would preferthe school that I had sent my child to oot to be selective."

Mr Grant began e powerful and totally unexpected speech with the words: "I support Hartiet Harman 100 per cent." His Labour supporters in the coun-

had to speak out.

Bernie Grant: Sons were

assessment, but also attitudes

The staff believe the kids

and standards.

Alice Mahon, in a speech judged by some to be the most

must solidify our commitment to comprehensive education. If at the end of this the vast majority of people know we are on their side then we can turn this issue to our advantage."

#### Blair plea defuses Labour revolt comprehensive in the Tottenseod her child to St. Olave's

Left-wing MP regrets rejecting

private education for his children

of failing to encourage their pupils

Bernie Grant accuses inner-city schools courage the kids to fix their as-

trying to turn the education of an 11-year-old boy into a party political football. They want a scalp as their prize." Before he spoke Ms Harman

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

"The comprehensive schools

in inner-city areas of London

are very bad indeed, and are

failing our children." Thus Bernie Grant, the left-wing

Labour MP for Tottenham,

north London, speaking from

It must have been beyond Tony Blair's wildest expectations

that the one-time hlack radical

would give such overwhelming

backing to the choice made by

The 51-year-old MP could

not have been more uncom-

promising. He was appalled at

the standard of comprehensive

education in his area, he told MPs at yesterday's Parliamen-

In an interview with the In-

dependent afterwards, he frankly

admitted that with hindsight he

regretted not considering the pri-

tary Labour Party meeting.

Harriet Harman.

his own hitter experience.

had declared in an emotional speech: "I know how difficult it has been for David Blunkett (the shadow Secretary of State for Educatioo]. I deeply regret that any decision I have taken has give oury

succour to the Tories and any

opportunity for them to attack

the Labour Party. I apologise to

colleagues for the diversion.

ham area and he now regretted it. This was a "personal decision by Harriet and Jack and as such none of our husiness." He had remained silent about many things in the Labour Party over the last eight years but he now

effective of the anti-Harman contributions, said the party had been deeply damaged and there were now deep divisions in Parliament and among three children had gone to a try. If she was determined to

school she should resign.
Roy Hattersley said "We

pirations very high."

He said of a young con-

stituent at a Haringey compre-

hensive who secured a place at

Oxford: "She was absolutely cas-

tigated by her teachers. She was told it was an élitist place for public school kids. At Oxford

she had a complex and didn't

perform as well as she should

He had concerns about his

sons throughout their early schooling but as council leader

felt be could do little about it.

moving out of Tottenham or

sending their children to the

Caribbean to be educated:

"When they get to the Caribbean they are put in classes two years

younger than them."

With hindsight, would he have opted for private educa-

tion, politics and money per-

mitting? "Absolutely". He adds:

"I hope some good comes out

Now hiack constituents were

Glenda Jackson said the greatest damage that could come from the episode was if Labour failed to be elected because in the face of difficulty "we had lost our nerve." She did not "agree with Harriet's decision" but she had every right to

spiritual aspect. A spokesman

# Prince wants lottery cash to build mosques

REBECCA FOWLER

The Prince of Wales has suggested lottery money should be spent on new mosques and Hindu temples in Britain. He also accused lottery chiefs in charge of the £1.6bn fund to celehrate the millennium of ig-

noring its spiritual importance. The Prince, who will inherit the role of defender of the Church of England, said Britain should use the millennium fund

for buildings for all faiths, and not allow celebrations to col-lapse into "a giant, but essen-

tially meaningless party". He made the comments in Perspectives, the architecture magazine he helped to found. We need to think more deeply about what the millennium means ... Everyone, whatever culture or beliefs, can have a stake in the process which the millennium represents. "I would hope that a start

might be made to help those faiths growing in Britain but struggling to create places of worship to erect huildings of real quality. This is one of those instances where millennium money may be able to build bridges across some of those divisions in Britain's

But his attempts to champion faiths other than Christianity have already divided religious leaders. Muslims are

forbidden to gamble and many would be reluctant to accept lot-tery grants from the Millenni-um Commission, which would offend Islamie law.

Liagat Hussain, a spokesman for the Bradford Council of Mosques, said the Prince had been ill-advised. "Gambling is haram, or forbidden, and it is prohibited to benefit from any-thing that proceeds from it, so lottery funds could not be used for mosques." But Zaki Badawi,

chairman of the Imams and as money coming from the state Mosques Council of Great and would advise communities Britain, commended the Prince's support, and said he believed religious leaders could make an exception to accept funds. "The Prince is striking a very important chord in the heart of all minorities who would like to be recognised as mainstream," Dr Badawi said. "Although we have discouraged mosques applying for lot-tery money, we would see this

to accept it."

The Prince's comments are also expected to spark a debate on the prominence of Chris-tianity over other faiths in Britain. In recent years he has promoted the idea that other faiths are of equal importance, and described himself as a future "defender of the faiths".

The Church of England, one of the most outspoken critics of

said: "We obviously welcome the Prince of Wales's contributhe lottery, has accepted grants for Church buildings. But it tion to this debate; we've had refused to comment on the public consultations at every Prince's remarks, and said it was a matter for the imams of the mosques as to whether they would accept financial support. So far the Millennium Comstage. We're already having in-formal discussions with many faiths on their feelings about the millennium." mission has allocated £336.5m for 306 projects. Yesterday it said it welcomed a debate on the best way to celebrate 2000 and denied it was oblivious to the

The Prince has also called for lottery money to be spent imcouraging city dwellers to find new uses for redundant buildings that might help the poor.

Cancer

# Two face jail over 'simple' £13m fraud

A solicitor and a former nuts and indemnity insurance cover to possible victims. In his office guilty yesterday of defrauding the cooker company Belling and some of Europe's largest companies in a £13m fraud.

Charles Deacon, a former under-sheriff for Stafford, and his partner in crime James Fuller spent years fooling money-hungry people and busi-nesses with amazing tales of international intrigue, the CIA and massive secret funds.

To back up their tales, letters were forged from the then American President George Bush, the American Secret Service and top banks. Helped by John Savage, an American who has since died and who claimed to he a senior CIA agent, their victims fell for the stories.

Apart from Belling, which was fooled into raiding its pension fund, victims also included Russia's largest co-operative and Finland's higgest food pro-

cessing company.
Deacon, 52, who practised in Newcastle under Lyme in Staffordshire, and Fuller, 56, now face up to 14 years in jail. They will be sentenced at Middlesex Crown Court in central

London today,
Deacon, a bankrupt, of Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, was convicted of six charges of conspiracy to defraud and two of obtaining property hy deception. Fuller, from Kidsgrove in Staffordshire, was found guilty on the six conspiracy charges and a deception charge. The jury took just four hours to consider three-and-ahalf months of evidence and return its unanimous verdicts.

Opening the prosecution case last October John Goldring QC had told the court: "You may think it would be a difficult task to steal this amount. It is simpler than you think. All you need is a little nerve and a total disregard for the truth."

Deacon had put himself forward as the honest advocate. For added effect, he frequently flashed his practice certificate

4 N. B. T. 18 26

to possible victims. In his office he had an impressive photograph of President Bush - with whom he claimed to be on first name terms - framed with the White House incumbent's

inauguration programme. Police believe Deacon and Fuller, who claimed to one guilible victim that he was the inventor of the world's first heart-lung machine, were part of a 12-strong gang - four in the US and the rest in Britain.

The court heard that Belling was among Deacon's and Fuller's first victims. In 1991, the company, based in Enfield, north London, was struggling to survive. When the firm was offered a lifeline loan of £33.5m. its directors could not resist.

Shown a forged letter from Lord Tugendhat, deputy chair-man of National Westminster Bank, about a £750m "facility". company officials agreed to the terms - one year's upfront interest to secure the much needed rescue package. They handed over more than £2m from their company pension fund. They never saw the mon-ey again. When they asked about the loan they were fobbed off with excuses.

The company folded in 1992, hut according to some reports the swindle may have longlasting effects on its 850 deferred pensioners - those who have not yet retired. According to one source, they could lose up to half their pension entitlement. The Law Society's solicitors' compensation scheme has already paid out £600,000 to victims, much of it in connection with Belling. Another £2m in claims is pending.

Mr Goldring told the judge that despite intensive inquiries it had been impossible to discover what had happened to £2.4m of the £9m that had not yet been recovered. However, detectives had found that £2m of the as yet untraced money had been laundered through about 40 different companies.

Appliance of science: Teenager's research ranked alongside Nobel winners



The tap that dripped for 200 hours

Order from chaos: Justin Marston at BNFL in Springfield, where he is working for a year before starting university

TOM WILKIE Science Editor

schoolboy today joins the ranks of the world's top scientists, as his research is published in the world's premier scientific jour-

Nobel prizewingers queue up to have their research published in Nature, but the journal today publishes the results of experiments Justin Marston did during his sixth-form Alevel project.

200 hours on his project -

An 18-year old Lancashire the hottest topics in science today - chaos and com

> theory. Some of the best brains in the world ponder these topics at the high-powered Santa Fe Institute in New Mexico, USA. Mr Marston investigated them at Runshaw Tertiary College in Leyland near Preston, using "central heating header tanks

watching a dripping tap. It may deny that his work was of No-sound downbeat, hut his work bel calibre. He said "I was a classic chaotic system. It's very average time between drips actually deals with two of shocked when I found out they close to my own experience. I the hortest topics in science to- [Nature] were going to publish think that brought it to life, "said

the young scientist. He got interested in the phe-In science, chaos is a tightly defined term, used to describe nomenon and recorded half a behaviour of physical or hiomillion observations, "Some of my friends said 'send it to a jourlogical systems that appears nal for publication' so I thought completely random but actually has an underlying pattern or series of patterns. The term has I might as well start at the top - Nature," he said. stuck, despite being misleading

Mr Marston studied how fast his "tap" (actually a capillary tuhe) dripped and how the rate

decreases, but not in a linear manner".

Despite having his experiment published, Mr Marston intends to study hiochemistry at Durham University in October. He could have chosen almost any scientific discipline, since he obtained six straight A grades in his A-levels: mathematics, hiology, chemistry, physics, music and general studies.

He hopes to pursue a career in science, but hasn't yet decided between academia and indus-

in the way that its scientific use bought from plumbers' meris almost the opposite of the was influenced by pressure in chants and a pump from the loeveryday use. Mr Marston spent more than cal garden centre". "I always thought chaotic the header tank. He found that physics was small atoms moving Mr Marston was quick to "as would be expected, with in-



Highly rated: Staff eating at the River Café in west London

Cafés less than starry-eyed over award

**CLARE GARNER** 

The Michelin Guide's attempt to embrace a wider, more eclectic range of restaurants within its culinary bible has backfired with the revelation that the less traditional eateries have only been awarded low ratings.

The crowning glory of three stars remains strictly reserved for an élite band of four, while two- and one- star ratings are still out of reach for many topclass restaurants. However, the Michelin Guide bestowed an unusually large number of lower

ratings, including 17 new one-stars and 25 new Red Meals, this

Highly landed restaurants such as London's River Café and Alastair Little were unimpressed with their Red Meal rat-ings. They criticised inspectors for being ont of touch and hurdened by French bias.

For the first time in its nineyear history, the River Café made its way into the gastronomic index - albeit unwittingly. The popular Italian restaurant was not exactly bowled over.

Rose Gray, the co-owner, was taken aback by the entry. Once reassured the restaurant had achieved red "M" status, code for "less elaborate hut carefully prepared meals", she replied: "We are really low cluded in our guide," he said. down, is that what you are saying? ... Hooray, good, fabu-lous." It didn't matter, she

insisted. "For me the Michelin Guide means very little. After all, we haven't been in the Michelin Guide since day one and lots of people like us. We get awards from other guides that give us top ratings." A Michelin spokesman de-nied there was a deliberate attempt to broaden the criteria this year. "Anyway there are any number of ethnic restaurants in-

"The restaurants we have chosen reached a standard that is satisfactory to our board. We are looking at the quality of the food, the care with which it is prepared, and the execution of the dishes."

The pioneering British chef Alastair Little, whose "Red Meal" restaurant in Soho is a non-mover in Michelin's culi-

nary charts, was similarly unimpressed. He dismissed the guide as "totally pointless".

"It's all a bit of a nonsense. They are completely and totally out of touch with what represents decent food in England They basically seem to like posh French cooking with extreme consistency - which is important - and can't come to terms with popular or populist laces at all.

☐ The 23rd edition of the Michelin Guide to Hotels & Restaurants in Great Britain and Ireland; £12.99.

victim **'killed** wealthy lover' JONATHAN FOSTER

Lethal doses of painkiller were added to a millionaire's supper by the terminally ill woman he thought was his wife, a court

heard yesterday.

Lynn Lowey, 39, wanted Ian Whalley's money and his life. She knew she had only nine months to live when she spiked his chicken stew and jacket potatoes with drugs prescribed to ease the pain of her cancer, magistrates in Huyton, Mersey-

side, were told, Mrs Lowey denies murdering Mr Whalley, 56, between 7-8 January. She faces further charges of poisoning, higamy and traudulent benefit claims.

Reporting restrictions were lifted during the hearing as Paul Becker, for the prosecution, said Mrs Lowey met Mr Whalley five years ago. The re-lationship was "stormy" and punctuated by several separa-tions. But in April 1994 Mrs Lowey went through a marriage ceremony to the "prosperous but frugal" Mr Whalley in Gibraltar.

Her first marriage had been dissolved in 1985. Her second, to John Lowey, bore two children. The couple separated in 1989, with custody of their children awarded to their father.

The Lowey marriage was never ended, so the Gibraltar ceremony was bigamous, Mr Becker said. But Mrs Lowey lived as man and wife with Mr Whalley at Bold, near St Helens.

On 8 January, his body was found by his son by his late wife in the caravan he shared with Mrs Lowey during construction of a new home. A post-mortem examination of the body revealed fatal quantities of morphine and Temazepam, Two of Mrs Lowey's cousins had told police that she was "obsessed with money", wanted Mr Whalley dead, but also wanted a share of his wealth. The cousins would give evidence that she told them: "No more Ian. Now I'm

Mrs Lowey was charged last week and remanded to Risley prison, Cheshire.

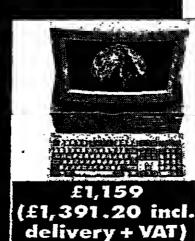
Graham Simpson, for Mrs Lowey, said the cousins' evidence would be challenged. Mr Whalley could not face the fact that the woman he thought his wife had terminal cancer; his wife of 28 years had also died of cancer.

Opposing a further remand in custody, Mr Simpson denied prosecution claims that Mrs owey would, if bailed, pose "tremendous danger" to witnesses, abscond, or commit suicide. "She wants to establish her innocence, then die," he said. Magistrates refused bail; she

was remanded in custody for seven days.

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# **School tests** show decline in standard of English

מסחר אשמחר Education Editor

Results of last year's national tests at 14 in English, to be published today, are worse than the previous year's with only about 50 per cent of the pupils reaching the standard expected by the

The proportion of pupils getting the top grades has fallen sharply, lending support to Eng-lish teachers' claims that marking this year was unfair to bright

1994 English results showed unacceptable standards of literacy and undermined teachers' claims that standards are rising. English teachers, however,

say the tests are too narrow and do not allow pupils to show what they can do. They want more coursework and fewer formal Full results of national cur-

riculum tests for 7-, 11- and 14year-olds taken last spring and summer by 2 million children will be released by Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, today.

Delay in publishing the re-

sults has fuelled speculation that they are disappointing.

The tests are marked on a scale of one (bottom) to eight (top). Last year, for the first time, they were marked by external markers instead of class teachers.

The Government says that the average 14-year-old should reach between level five and six. But last year only 55 per cent reached level five or better in English compared with 58 per cent the year before.

Only 20 per cent reached level six or more, compared with 31 per cent last year, and just 4 per cent reached levels seven and eight, compared with more than 10 per cent in the previous ear - a difference of nearly 40.000 pupils.

The results take into account the 20,000 pupils who had their marks changed after 900

schools complained about unfair marking

An Exeter University report on the tests, to be published shortly, will say that questions in the compulsory Shakespeare paper were too narrow to allow hright pupils to show what they

Bethan Marshall, an executive member of the National Association for the Teaching of English, which complained about inexperienced markers, said: "The markers were not all English specialists and the mark Traditionalists said even the scheme was too rigid to take account of the bright child who comes up with unexpected answers. This has created some extremely erratic results."

> The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which advises the Government on exams, has admitted there were difficulties over marking English tests and has promised to tighten up the supervision and training for markers.

It is also piloting new tests for 14-year-olds on Shakespeare which would include coursework and would allow teachers to set tests when they chose. It says English teachers have exaggerated the problems over

marking.

Dr Nick Tate, the authority's chief executive, said hefore Christmas that the test results suggested that standards of reading and writing among seven-year-olds were rising while those in maths remained much

Results for 14-year-olds in English, maths and science remained much the same.

Mrs Shephard will also announce that the Government is to consult on whether to go ahead with performance tables for primary schools based on national tests at 11. At present performance tables are confined to GCSE and A-level results.

Ministers have said they intend to wait until tests for 11year-olds have "bedded down" before introducing tables. The first tests were set last year.



Missing link: Pot-holer Steve Thomas wading into the major cave system at Dan yr Ogof, in Powys, as part of a search for 10 miles of missing passageways brought to the attention of cavers by continuing heavy flows of water during last summer's drought Photograph: Rob Stratton

### **Income support fraud** reaches £1.4bn a year

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Fraud by claimants of income support is running at £1.4bn a year, the National Audit Office confirms today. The public spending watchdog found that almost I in 10 of income support recipients are estimated to be fiddling their claims. In all, 561,000 people, or 9.7 per cent of claimants, are committing fraud, the NAO reckons.

False information definitely lay behind payments of £636m, said the NAO, and there is a "strong suspicion" of fraud in cases worth another £773m. So great is the problem that

Sir John Bourn, the head of the

NAO and the Comptroller and

Auditor-General, refused to give the Benefits Agency, which administers Income Support, a clean hill of health. The agency's accounts were quali-fied, said the NAO, "because of the high level of expenditure arising from fraudulent claims".

Around 10 per cent of total Income Support payments of £16.6bn is being claimed dishonestly-a proportion that will make grim reading for Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Spcial Security, and will fuel demands from Tory backbenchers for a renewed crackdown.

It comes after a recent study from his department found that fraud in housing benefit, which is dealt with by local councils, may be costing £1hn a year.

In July Mr Lilley announced a new approach for the Benefits Agency - developed after concerns in 1994 - to combat cheats. The strategy puts new emphasis on trying to stop fraud occurring in the first place, while boosting detection

and investigation, Costing £300m, Mr Lilley's onslaught is expected to yield savings of £2bn over the next three years. This year, said the NAO, as part of a further tightening up, the Agency has promised to: simplify the rules on housing costs; improve its computer system; make extra checks before payments; bolster training and send hit squads into agency branches where fraud is especially prevalent.

#### New divorce laws like 'a shotgun wedding'

The new Family Law Bill is the on the skill of the mediators. Yet "legal equivalent of a shotgun wedding with some aspects hasty and ill-thought-out, says the Which? Guide to Divorce, writes Glenda Cooper.
And the Child Support

Agency has been a "lost opportunity" due to the complexity of its mechanisms, claims the guide's author, Helen Garlick. Under the "12-month nofault divorce proposals before Parliament, the emphasis will be on mediation to resolve disputes,

with restricted access to lawyers. Of the plans for couples to discuss finance, property and children with trained mediators viewed by many solicitors as likely to lever them out of the divorce business - Ms Garlick said: "Its success greatly depends 165,000 divorces.

the assumption is a nationwide network of trained mediators will materialise quickly."

The book warns mediation is not always appropriate, particularly if there are heated and complex disputes. But it welcomes the domestic violence reforms as overdue and the "very sensible re-ordering of the current messy and confusing law".

Ms Garlick, a solicitor, says the Child Support Agency may need a "radical overhaul" if it is to survive.

■ Marriage is continuing to go out of fashion. Since 1992, when 426,000 couples were married, the number of weddings has fallen by a third. In 1993, there were 299,197 marriages and a record

# Mental health care 'in crisis'

GLENDA COOPER

An investment of £500m is needed to stop the crisis in care for schizophrenics and reduce their 1-in-10 suicide rate, the National Schizophrenia Fellowship said yesterday.

Gary Hogman, research officer with the NSF, told the Royal College of Psychiatrists winter meeting in Stratfordupon-Avon that a multi-million pound investment was needed urgently if proper care was to be delivered to the mentally ill. The £500m would be spent on staff and staff training.

The call comes a week after an inquiry set up by the Government into 39 homicides and 240 suicides involving the mentally ill produced fierce criticism of the National Health Service. The report, by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, found many patients who killed or committed suicide had lost contact with the psychiatric services or were refusing to comply with

In a paper called Carers, Crisis and Cash, Mr Hogman said that unbearable strain was being put on informal carers who look after schizophrenics -90 per cent of whom live in the

More than four in five carers were providing "crisis" care -caring for someone who has had a severe relapse in mental health and is a danger to themselves and others. And 70 per cent of carers had experienced physical or mental health problems themselves "as a result of the extra burden of caring".

"NSF members are fre-quently made aware that you have to have a crisis before you can access the mental health ser-

vices," said Mr Hogman.
"Generally the situation has not improved over the last 10 or 20 years. Informal carers have been left out of the equation and not given the information or support they deserve."

Mr Hogman added: "If what we have now is 'community care' then it is working effectively for only a small minority with severe mental illness. More resources must be made available or the Government must admit the policy cannot been implemented."

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Social Trends: Women still do most housework

# New Man fails to survive into the Nineties

**NICHOLAS TIMMINS** Public Policy Editor

The New Man of the 1980s has failed to make it into the 1990s. Among couples, eight out of ten women still always or usually do the washing or ironing. Only 35 per cent of men share the job of deciding what to have for dinner and while men and women share shopping more equally, it is still men who are overwhelmingly likely to do the re-

pairs around the home. More people are taking two holidays a year and more are going abroad. Spending on food and tobacco as a proportion of household expenditure is falling, but housing and transport is taking a larger slice of household hudgets, the Social Trends analysis of lifestyle and expenditure reveals.

Women spend eight hours more per week on housework. cooking and shopping even when they are working full-time - and as a result men in full-time work tend to have two hours' more free time at weekends than their working partners. But some things change: the proportion of women doing home improvements in their free time rose to 30 per cent.

And while men remain more likely than women to take part in sport or other physical aclivity, the gap between the gen-ders has narrowed. In 1993-94, 57 per cent of women took part in at least one activity in the four weeks preceding a survey. against 72 per cent of men.

Walking is the most popular activity for both sexes, but men

play golf, snooker, pool or hil-liards than women, while high-er proportions of women than men went swimming or attended keep-fit classes.

At home, watching television remains overwhelmingly the favourite leisure time activity, with people spending an average 19 hours a week in front of the television or listening to the radio, compared with five hours visiting friends, three reading, and two playing games

or hobbies or computing.
On average, three hours a week are spent eating or drinking out two hours on walks or other recreation and just one on sport. Cycling, despite greater interest in bicycle lanes, has continued to decline, at least on public roads. In 1951, this activity accounted for a quarter of all road traffic, with 21 billion kilometres covered. By 1994, kilometres covered had fallen by one-fifth and cyclists made up just 1 per cent of traffic.

Outside the home, arts activities are increasing. Cinema attendances were up 10 per cent to 124 million admissions in 1994 and attendances at the ballet and opera, at plays, classical music and art galleries all rose over the past decade.

Rising wealth - household spending has risen by three-quarters since 1971 - has seen changing expenditure patterns. The proportion spent on food has nearly halved to 11 per cent since 1971, and the proportion spent on other essentials such as fuel, power, clothing and footwear also fell. Housing, however, accounts for a higher were four times more likely to proportion - the result both of

rising owner-occupation and higher rents. Expenditure on holidays ahroad nearly quadru-pled over the same period.

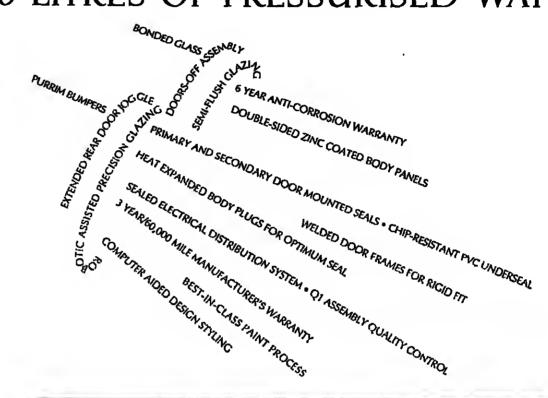
The proportion of adults tak-ing one holiday a year has remained fairly constant at about 60 per cent, but the proportion taking two or more has risen fourfold to 26 per cent over the past 30 years. Changed expenditure on food has not prevented a healthier diet - though not among the young. The 16to 24- year-olds were the least likely to eat vegetables, salad, fruit and high-fibre cereal reg-ularly. In addition, higher proportions of 18- to 24-year-olds

drank excessively.



Poet's corner: David Freckleton, exhibitions organiser at Glasgow's Mitchell Library, moves an engraving of Robert Burns in the new Burns Room, which opens today, the 200th anniversary of the poet's death. It will also house the Scottish Poetry Library Photograph: Colin McPherson

#### WE BLAST EACH JAGUAR WITH 2,880 LITRES OF PRESSURISED WATER.





#### Household expenditure

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tasks, 1994 Great Britain, %	Always the woman	Usually the woman	equal or both	Usually the man	Always the men	All
Washing and Ironing	47	32	18	1	1	100

Deciding what to have for dinner 27 Looking after sick family members 22 Shopping for groceries Small repairs around the house

Education takes

#### more time as work shrinks

Britons are becoming hetter qualified, retiring or having to reflects earlier retirement made give up work earlier, and spend-ing longer in education, according to the latest edition of Social Trends, writes Nicholas

But despite an educational and work revolution which is tending to shorten working lives while the population ages, young people still quit formal education much more quickly than in many competitor countries. Education is starting earlier. More than haif of threeand four-year-olds now attend school full- or part-time, compared with one-fifth 25 years

The proportion staying on at school past 16 has almost douhled since 1980, and there has been a "spectacular" growth in the number of 18-year-olds en-tering further and higher education. In the three years to 1993-94 the number of full-time students increased more than 40 per cent in higher education and 0 per cent in further education increases greater than over the hole of the previous decade.

But despite such dramatic growth, the UK still lags behind other countries. By 18, barely half are still in education against four-fifths in France and Germany. In addition, more than one-third of UK participants are part-time when in other countries education and training is

almost all full-time. As education lengthens, however, working life, particularly for men, is being squeezed at the other end. Only a fraction more than half (51 per cent) of men aged 60 to 64 now work, against four out of five in 1971. and the proportion is expected to fall below a half by 2000.

Some of the dramatic decline possible by the growth of occupational pension schemes. But some is forced retirement. Older workers - along with the young - are the most likely to be made redundant. And once out of a job, older workers are the least likely to get back into one. Of men unemployed for a year, about 60 per cent of those aged 50 to 64 had been out of work for a year or more compared with 45 per cent of those aged 20 to 29. "Redundancy is a real fear among people," So-cial Trends records, even though redundancy rates have fallen in

The changed work patterns have also brought a marked shift

recent vears.

in people's attitudes over the role of trade unions. Seven years ago, in 1989, 28 per cent of those questioned listed improving pay as the most im-portant thing they thought trade unions should do. By 1994, that had changed dramatically. More than twice as many (37 per cent) wanted unions to concentrate on protecting jobs, against 15 per cent listing improving pay as their most im-portant task. That change was also reflected in more than twice as many union members saying they believed unions should have a larger say over management's long term plans. "Job security is seen as a major

concern," the report says. But while work is shrinking for men, it is rising for women, a reflection of more part-time jobs, hut also women having fewer children, delaying having them and are more likely to return to work after having a child. ☐ Social Trends 1996. HMSO:

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# 'Arms to Iran' firm bypassed Cyprus embargo

Westminster Correspondent

The defence company at the centre of the arms to Iran affair was also using Singapore as a way of avoiding a British embargo against supplying Cyprus. the Trade and Industry Select

Committee was told yesterday. A former director of the company was also accused by an MP of having a "selective mem-ory" after denying he had not even heard factory rumours arms were destined for Iran.

A memorandum to senior executives of BMARC reveals Singapore was being used as a conduit for ammunition for 35mm guns - the same role it played in the supply of 140 naval guns to Iran in defiance of a United Nations blockade.

on the BMARC board, has denied knowing Iran was the final destination for the naval guns order, codenamed Project Lisi.

In evidence to the select committee, which is investigating the Lisi deal, other ex-BMARC directors. William McNaught and Major-General bly, it was revealed, because the

Donald Isles, have maintained they did not know the artillery pieces were heading for Iran or that Singapore was a stop-off. Dated 4 January 1989, the

memo was sent by Mr Mc-Naught, BMARC's managingdirector, to five colleagues, including Major-General Isles. It details how the firm had failed to obtain an export licence for Greek Cyprus in 1987. As a way round the embargo, the am-munition was ordered by Oerlikon, BMARC's former Swiss parent, from the company's Grantham factory and sent to Singapore, from where it was shipped to Cyprus. At the same time as BMARC was using this

device to arm Cyprus, ship-

ments were being made to Sin-

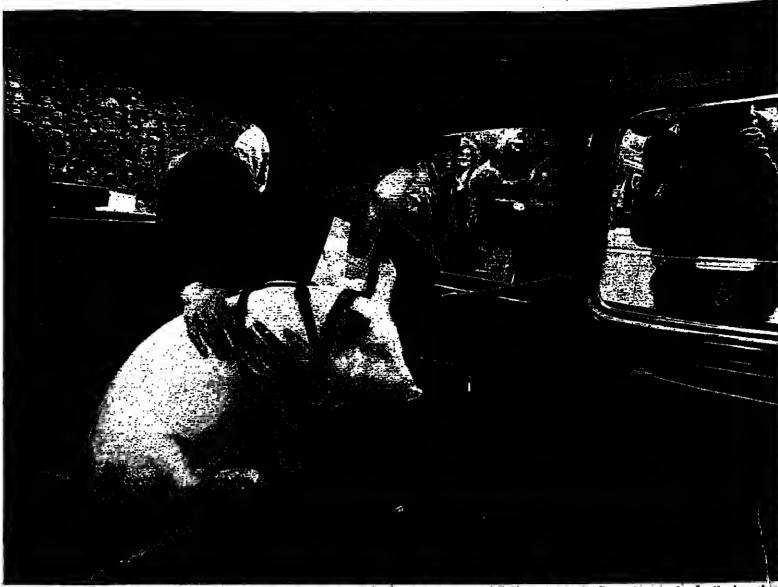
gapore as part of Lisi. The memorandum emerged Jonathan Aitken MP, who sat as MPs quizzed Stephan Kock. another ex-BMARC director. In a session that became heated at times. Mr Kock downplayed Lisi, claiming it was not "a very large project". He admitted, though, it had been discussed. Board minutes did not include much mention of Lisi - possi-

While Major-General Isles said he had heard factory rumours thal the Lisi guns were going to Iran, Mr Kock said he had not heard them. He was accused by the MP Ken Purchase of having "a selective memory".

MPs repeatedly questioned Mr Kock about his own background in the defence industry. the armed forces and mtelligence. He admitted keeping in contact with the security services while on the BMARC board.

After Mr Kock accused Ger ald James, the former BMARC chairman who claims his fellow directors did know Lisi was bound for Iran, of "always looking for spooks under the bed". Martin O'Neill, the committee chairman, replied that Mr Kock was "a spook above the bed".

Mr Kock also denied the company ran "a secret order book", as alleged by Mr James. And he avoided answering a question by the MP Keith Hampson about the Cyprus memorandum. Instead, Mr



Kock paid tribute to Government officials administering Save my bacon: The actress Joanna Lumley cuddling Babe, an eight-week-old piglet, as they arrived outside the Parliament officials administering Save my bacon: The actress Joanna Lumley cuddling Babe, an eight-week-old piglet, as they arrived outside the Parliament Compassion in World Farming's 1996 campaign to win a new status for animals as 'sontlent beings' in European law

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# Doughty performer stands her ground at despatch box

Tarriet Harman last night proved to her Labour colleagues that whatever they might think of her judgement in sending her son, Joseph, to a grammar school, she is a doughty Commons performer under pressure.

Opening a Labour-initiated debate on the health service scheduled before the schooling row broke - Ms Harman managed both to stifle Tory atlempts to embarrass her and to mount an effective attack on privatisation by the back

"This debate is about the crisis in our National Health Service," Ms Harman hegan. "It is about the hundreds of patients who wait on trolleys for emergency treatment. It is about the inds who are denied the treatment they need." The jeers of Tory hack-

benchers in a House unusually well attended for an Opposition debale, suggested otherwise. Noting the packed benches op-posite him, David Shaw, Conservative MP for Dover, said Labour MPs had been banned from the Commons tea room. Later Mr Shaw came perilously close to be ordered out of the chamber after shouting such thing as a grant-maintained hospital?" he asked.

□ Harman keeps cool in face of Tory onslaught □ NHS 'safe only with the party that created it'

out that Tony Blair was a "hypocrite", but finally withdrew the accusation under pressure from the deputy speaker, Michael Morris.

The Labour leader, and his deputy, John Prescott, were on the crowded Opposition from bench to support Ms Harman,

Inside Parliament

Stephen Goodwin

while her husband, union official Jack Dromey, watched from

the public gallery
John Sykes, MP for Scar-borough, was one of the first Tories to try to trip up the Labour health spokeswoman. "Isn't it a good thing there's no

"Wouldn't she be in more trou-

ble in that case?" But Ms Harman said she was surprised Mr Sykes was not rising to complain to the Health

Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, about the fact that 7,546 hospital beds had been closed in his own bealth region. "I believe that is what his constituents want him to be speaking up about in this House of Commons, rather than making cheap points."

Pressed by another Tory about her commitment to the "Conservative princishe had not taken private health care, but that for many people,

the treatment they wanted was oo longer available on the NHS. Ducking the question of whether Labour would actually abolish GP fund-holding, she said the party would bring together staff, patients and communities to create a consensus on future health care. "We will transfer the £1.5bn the Government wastes on

bureaucracy to front-line services", and "end the unfair system where treatment is dependent on which GP is purchasing the health care, not on the clinical need of the patient".

"The Tory party in their hearts hate the NHS. The only safeguard for the NHS is the party which created the NHS the Labour Party."

Stephen Dorrell hit back with a scathing attack on Labour's "hypocrisy". Just keeping within the rules of order for a health debate, he said: "The thing that makes us angry is the distinction between what they say and what they do." The Opposition had put a

"completely new political principle into action" - remaining silent to express "warm fraternal solidarity" with Ms Harman.

Mocking the failure of some Shadow Cabinet colleagues to support her, he said: "The reason Ms Harman is right and virtually all her colleagues on her own backbenches are wrong is that she has shown by her actions that she endorses the principles and values of a free and open society. That is important in the world of cducation and equally important in the world of health care."

#### Training chiefs' £1 liability attacked

CHRIS BLACKHURST

One of the Government's flag-ship initiatives for alleviating the problem of long-term unemployed young people was criti-cised yesterday by a powerful group of MPs.

The Commons Public Ac-

counts Committee, which has a majority of Tory members, expressed "grave concern" that the directors of Training and Enterprise Councils, private companies set up with more than £1.4bn of taxpayers' money to manage young people's training, have a personal liability of just £1 each in the event of failure. The TEC in South

Thames has already collapsed. Stephen Byers, Labour's education and employment spokesman, called for changes in the accountability of TEC directors.

"It is simply unacceptable that people responsible for spending such large sums of public money have personal li-ability of just £1." he said. 'Changes must be introduced which will ensure that directors are held liable for reckless spending."

In the case of South Thames the chief executive, Michael Hanson, retired hecause of illhealth. The board agreed to make him an ex gratia payment of £30,375.

"Would the directors of South Thames have acted in this cavalier way if they could be held personally responsible for such spending?". Mr Byers

### Government in retreat over ID card proposals

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

A voluntary identity card scheme is to be introduced later this year, following a Home Office survey showing most people do not want to be com-pelled to carry identification.

Baroness Blatch, the Home Office minister, yesterday told a Commons committee that the Government had reached no final decisions over a national identity scheme. But sources confirmed that the threat of a Cabinet rift had already ruled out a costly com-pulsory scheme. Ministers were said to favour a voluntary scheme based on a photocard

driving licence. It also emerged that what was in any event a lukewarm commitment to a compulsory scheme has now been further watered down by the realisation

or no impact on crime.

However, Lady Blatch in-sisted yesterday that a scheme would ease people's "fear of crime". They would believe it was "another shot in the armoury of the police in the fight against crime", she told the all-party Home Affairs Select

Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, immediately attacked the Government for its indecision. "First there was the hype, then silence and now a gradual

retreat," he said. The idea was warmly welcomed by the Tory grassroots when it was held up by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, at the party conference two years ago as a major weapon in the fight against criminals, illegal immigrants and benefit

scroungers.

that ID cards would have little more muted. Criticised as an attack on freedom, the proposals united the libertarian left and right - including those in the Cahinet. Even the police were ambivalent - unconvinced of the scheme's crime-fighting merits, and concerned about the po-

tential for harassment claims. There was also Treasury opposition - a compulsory scheme would have cost about £600m and the evidence of studies from countries that have ID schemes indicating that they had very limited impact on crime, fraud, and illegal immigration. A government consultation

paper, published last May, out-lined a number of possible options. A aubsequent Home Office survey of over 2,600 vot-ers found that just over half favoured some kind of scheme, but less than a third wanted a compulsory card. About 30 per Enthusiasm has since been cent were dead set against.

#### 'Tartan tax' blow to Tories

**JOHN ARLIDGE** Scotland Correspondent

The Tories' campaign against Labour's devolution proposals suffered a setback yesterday when Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was ordered to stop making claims that a Scottish parliament would impose a "tartan tax".

Sir Robin Butler, the head of the Civil Service, ruled that the phrase, which is the cornerstone of Mr Forsyth's campaign against a revenue-raising Edinburgh assembly, was "par-

be used in official government communiqués. Tartan tax claims have

appeared in numerous Scottish Office documents in recent weeks, angering Labour and the Scottish National Party, who have accused Mr Forsyth of using civil servants to peddle

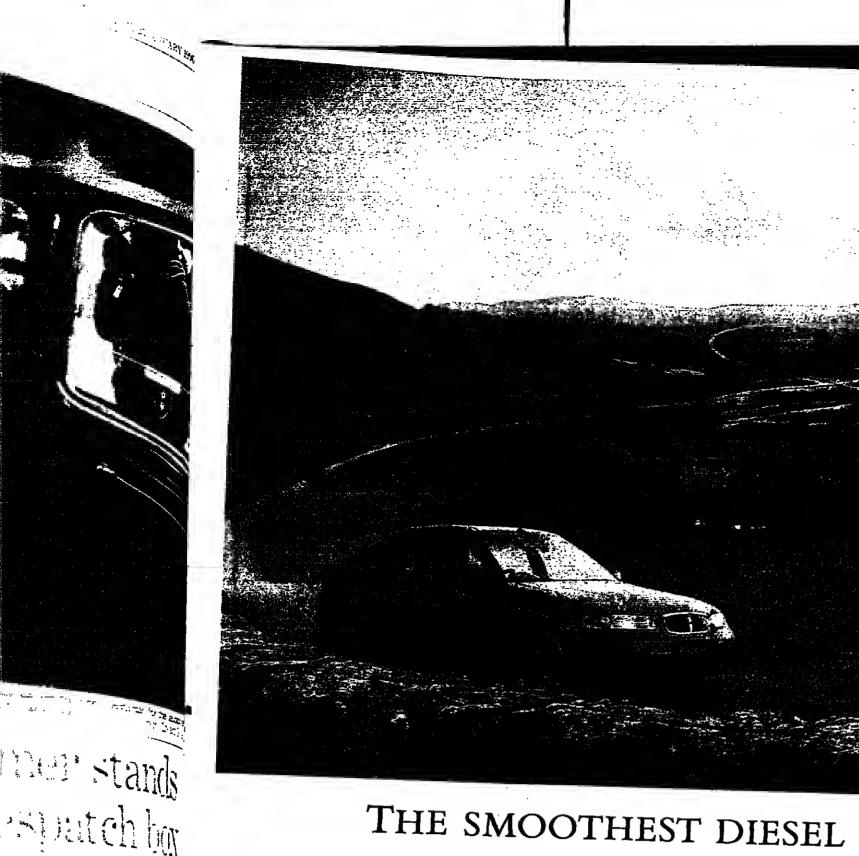
Tory propaganda. Sir Robin's move comes a week after a hitter dispute over a speech by Mr Forsyth in which he used another Tory alogan - devolution converts "new iobs to nae iobs".

George Robertson, the shadty political" and could no longer ow Secretary of State for Scot-

land, wrote to Sir Rohin, the guardian of political neutrality in the Civil Service, asking him to rule whether the phrase "tartan tax" could be used in Scottish Office documents. Labour says a Scottish administration would not raise taxes.

After consultations with Sir Robin, Sir Russell Hillhouse, the permanent under-secretary at the Scottish Office, agreed that the phrase was partisan.

Mr Forsyth remains free, however, to refer to the tartan tax in remarks at government functions, in the Commons, and at Conservative meetings.



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Funding the arts: Virginia Bottomley is drawn into controversy over two theatres' competing claims for Arts Council grants

# Stage set for battle of artistic survival

Two neighbouring theatres are antiously awaiting today's decision on grants to regional Arts Councils which could decide their future.

Ooe, the Yvonne Arnaud theatre in Guildford, has been premiering works from major playwrights since the Second World War but faces closure in April if funds are not forth-

The other, the Redgrave Theatre in Farnham, closed last January but wants to reopen with repertory productions soon. The latter enjoys some powerful support - not least that of its constituency MP, Virginia Bottomley, who also hapens to be the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

The Redgrave Theatre. which put on home-grown repertory productions until it closed last January, has applied for a £740,000 grant. spread over the next three years, from South East Arts. The cash would be used for reopening and for new productions. Mrs Bottomley, the MP for Surrcy South-West, has pledged support and the Redabout securing the money.

Meanwhile, the Yvonne Arnaud, a commercial plavhouse which has premiered works by

the likes of Alan Ayckbourn, Tom Stoppard and Alan Bennett has already received a grant of £25,000 from South East Arts, but this is not likely to sustain it past April. Its owners are appealing to the body for

urgent help. South East Arts have to justify why it is more important 10 reopen a theatre which died a year ago, with an anoual au-dience of 50,000, than it is to keep open a live theatre with our track record, which has an audience of 160,000," said James Barber, artistic director of the Yvonoe Arnaud,

The Guildford theatre already has the backing of some of the stars who have graced its stage in the past, including Dame Judi Dench, Peter Bowles and Millicent Martin. Indeed, Sir Derek Jacohi has told the Farnham Herald: "I would love to see a thriving Redgrave Theatre hut the Yvonne Arnaud is receiving a had deal from South East Arts. and I would question the level of funding for a theatre that is

not up and running."
The Yvonne Arnaud has also argued that the Sybil Thorndike theatre io nearby Leatherhead receives an annual grant of £180,000, although it benefits from the involvement of celebrated theatrical figures Sir Peter Hall and Bill Kenwright.

The Redgrave plans to open by October. James Gatward, the former TVS chief executive who is helping present the Redgrave's case to South East Arts, said Mrs Bottomley had heen "most supportive". He added that, as the local MP, she was

keen for the theatre to survive. South East Arts' chief executive, Chris Cooper, said no decision would be taken on the awards until early next week, after today's Arts Council grants to the 10 regional arts boards in England. SEA is the lowest-funded of the regional boards.

He admitted that the Redgrave reopening took prece-dence over the Yvonne Arnaud's priorities. "The Redgrave is the training ground for the very talented who are going to take over Hollywood in 10 years' time. There's very few of those theatres left. We are aware of the situation in Guildford hut at the end of the day, they're about a commercial

The outgoing Guildford MP, David Howell, said: "I have been in touch with the Heritage Secretary and had a sympathetic voice - but no action. Both theatres have been in-

volved in a slanging match in the local press. James Gatward said: "If the Yvonne Arnaud is saying they want the Redgrave money, we say, 'Bugger off'."



Writing on the wall: The Redgrave Theatre in Farnham, Surrey, which hopes to reopen with help from South East Arts

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# **Transplant** hell' man loses out on damages

JOJO MOYES

A man who was given a cancerous kidney in a transplant operation was yesterday awarded £21,286 in damages - but will not receive a penny and may have to pay legal costs because he was previously offered £25,000 in settlement.

Peter Sumners, 51, from Haywards Heath in West Sus sex, underwent the operation in Juoe 1986, hut it was seven months before he was told that

the organ was contaminated. He told Mr Justice Collins at the High Court in London that he went through "hell" during months of dialysis and radiotherapy before he went into remission. The judge yesterday awarded Mr Sumners £17,500

for his pain and suffering in what he called a "unique case". "It is difficult to imagine how appalling the knowledge that one has cancer must be, particularly where it has come in circumstances such as I have described," the judge said. When, added to that, there is misdiagnosis, unnecessary radiotherapy and an apparent giving up on Ireatment, the trauma is even worse."

While the judge said he had ecormous sympathy for Mr Sumners and wished he could make an exception in his case, he added: "To make an order in his favour woold be my heart ruling my head. I would like to hut I fear it wouldn't stand up

if it was considered further." The balance of the award was made up of miscellaneous expenses, including loss of earnings, hringing it up to £21,286 - £25,566 including interest.



Peter Sumners: 'Gutted' by a win-and-lose judgment

But Mr Sumners's solicitor. Stephen Smith, said the award would be swallowed up by the court's order that Mr Sumners must pay the costs of the action after the beginning of March 1993, when Mid Downs Health Authority and Brighton Health Authority made the payment into court. He said an appeal would be considered against the £17,500 portion of the award as it was considered to be too low for the pain and suffering Mr Sumners experienced. After the judgment Mr Sumners said that he felt "gutted".

Last week, the judge said staff at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton "could not really have made greater hlunders in the way they treated Mr Sumners ooce they realised that they had put in a

potentially cancerous kidney". But he ruled that the hospital was not oegligent in failing to diagnose the kidney as cancerous, because of the speed at which transplants had to be

1444

#### DAILY POEM O, wert thou in the cauld blast

By Robert Burns

O, wert thou in the cauld blast On yonder lea, on yonder lea, My plaidie to the angry airt, I'd shelter thee, I'd shelter thee.

Or did Misfortune's bitter storms Around thee blaw, around thee blaw, Thy bield should be my bosom, To share it a', to share it a',

Or were I in the wildest waste, Sae black and bare, sae black and bare, The desert were a Paradise,

If thou wert there, if thou wert there. Or were I monarch o the globe. We thee to reign, we thee to reign, The brightest jewel in my crown Wad be my queen, wad be my queen.

Robbie Burns died 200 years ago this year, but it is his birthday on 25 January that has always been celebrated by the Scots. Burns, their radical, nationalist poet, has been depicted by the anniversary media as an angry young punk with revolutionary leanings, but his real contributions to his homeland were more gentle: his use of the Scottish dialect when it was regarded as too "low" for literature, and the preservation - a labour of great love - of a wealth of old Scottish songs and hallads.

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US budget crisis: President's masterful State of the Union message allays market fears and boosts his hopes for re-election

# **Acclaim for Clinton** as he woos Congress

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Hours after President Bill Clinton's widely acclaimed State of the Union Address, the Republicans and the White House moved yesterday towards compromise on a stop-gap spendgovernment shut-down this weekend and on a formula to increase the debt ceiling, preventing a threatened government default next month.

In a speech that effectively began his re-election campaign. Mr Clinton urged the Republican Congress to join him in passing those parts of a bat-anced budger plan on which hoth sides agreed. After the Speaker, Newt Gingrich. responded by offering a measure to lift the borrowing ceiling "as early as next week", the White House professed its wo-to-one margin of A cans blamed the Repub for the hudget impasse.

"encouragement" at Mr Gingrich's words.

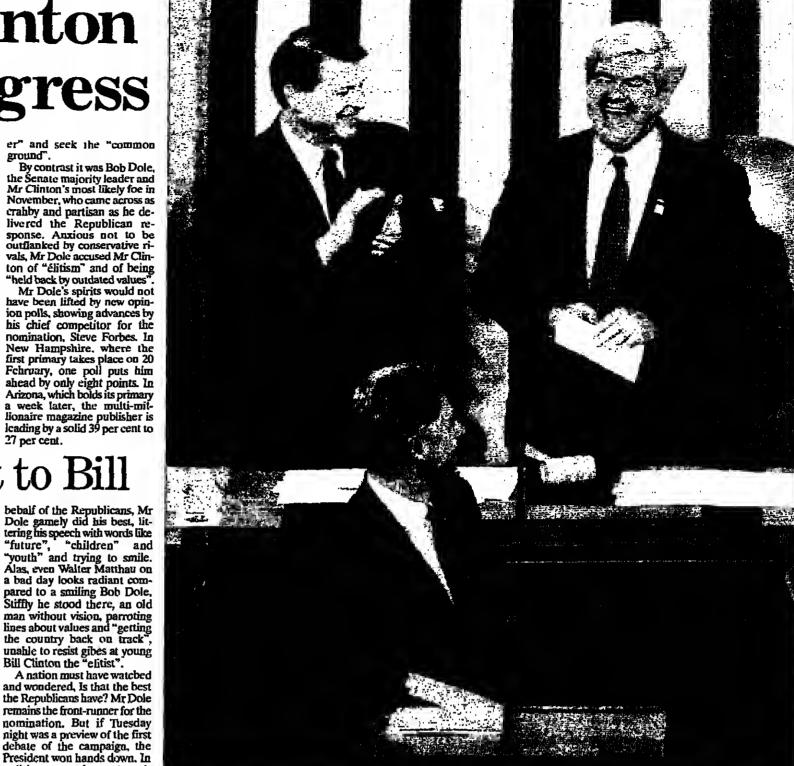
An increase in the \$4.9bn (£3.1bn) ceiling, which Republican hard-liners have blocked in order to exert pressure on Mr Clinton to accede to a sevenyear plan to balance the budget, promise on a stop-gap spend-ing bill to avert another government shut-down this weekend and on a formal shut-down this would go into default on 1 March. The unprecedented move could cause turmoil on world financial markets.

Yesterday that prospect was receding, not least because Republicans were aware that Tuesday night unarguably belonged to Mr Clinton. Press and pubtic reviews were overwhelmingly favourable. One instant poll afterwards registered 70 per cent public approval, while a lwo-to-one margin of Ameri-cans blamed the Republicans

The President urged De- er" and seek the "common mocrats and Republicans to ground". put aside differences for a new

By contrast it was Bob Dole. 'Age of Possibility' for Amerthe Senate majority leader and ica. By co-opting many Repub-lican themes, from crime to Mr Clinton's most likely foe in November, who came across as family values", he took dead crahby and partisan as he deaim at the crucial middle livered the Republican reground of US politics where the sponse. Anxious not to be outflanked by conservative rinext election witt be decided. Even Mr Gingrich conceded it vals, Mr Dole accused Mr Clinwas a "remarkably Republican ton of "élitism" and of being "held back by outdated values"

"The era of Big Govern-ment" is over, Mr Clinion de-Mr Dole's spirits would not have been lifted by new opinclared, in one of the few ion polls, showing advances by passages to draw cheers from his chief competitor for the Republicans. But, he added in nomination, Steve Forbes. In an implicit dig at his opponents' beartless radicalism, "We can-New Hampshire, where the first primary takes place on 20 Fehruary, one poll puts him not go back to the time when ahead by only eight points. In Arizona, which bolds its primary our citizens were left to fend from themselves." Mr Clinton produced no important legislaa week later, the multi-mitlionaire magazine publisher is leading by a solid 39 per cent to



Laughing matter: A light moment during the State of the Union session, when, before the address, Newt Gingrich

#### five proposals. Instead he pep-pered his speech with exhortations to "stand togethold men hand it to Bill

Washington - There was a special showing of Grumpy Old Men on Tuesday evening. Not the smash film with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, hut the Capitol Hill version, without a laugh in the script, fea-turing the Republican elders in Congress and starring Bob Dole - the Meanest Scowl in Town.

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For students of politics as image, Bill Clinton's State of the Union address was a dream. There he was, the Husband of Hillary to be sure, but youthful, appealing, and above all projecting good cheer. True, on the rostrum hehind him Vice-President Al Gore was doing his habitual impersonation of a Secret Service officer. But compared with the Republicans even the famously wooden Al came across as a bundle of fun. Next to Mr Gore sat Newt

Speaker's countenance lighten, when just before the speech Mr Clinton banded him a sheet of paper. Earlier that evening, a television reporter had inquired of the Speaker what be would like the President to say.
Thank you and good night, came the reply. That was the mock text Mr Clinton handed him. Even Mr Gingrich, who has

not had much to smile about of

late, had to grin. But that was the end of the festivities as far as Republicans were concerned. A few times they clapped. For the rest, if the cutaway television shots were any guide, they sat in a silence that was, well, just grumpy. A peevish Al D'Amato, chairman of the Senate Whitewater committee and Mrs Clinton's Congressional persecutor-in-chief, raised a faint smile as the Pres-Gingrich. Only once did the ident praised his wife in the

er, wonderful wife, and great First Lady".

Then the camera panned on to Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, 93 years young and staring blankly ahead. And the instant Mr Clinton finished, many Republicans sprinted from the chamber rather than accord the courtesy of applause. But that was just a trailer for the main show. Pity Bob Dole, Prohably his-

tory will remember him as a man who should have been President, but wasn't. If so, the reason will be in part his age of 72, which would make him the oldest ever occupant of the White House should be win the election and which even long sessions under the tanning machine cannot conceal. But most damaging of all, he's grumpy.
As he officially responded on

Stiffly he stood there, an old man without vision, parroting lines about values and "getting the country back on track unable to resist gibes at young Bill Clinton the "elitist". A nation must have watched

and wondered, Is that the best the Republicans have? Mr Dole remains the front-runner for the nomination. But if Tuesday night was a preview of the first debate of the campaign, the President won hands down. In politics, grumpiness doesn't

Rupert Cornwell

# Warning of Chinese attack prompts 'jitters' in Taiwan

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

Renewed fears of a Chinese attack on Taiwan have heen roused by a report in yesterday's New York Times that the Chinese government would launch a series of daily missile attacks against the island following the March presidential election.

Such a move, the Times said. would be designed to pre-empt moves to secure international recognition for the island's government. Peking views Taiwan

the Clinton administration had "no independent confirmation or even credible evidence" of such a plan, and China's foreign ministry called the report "totally groundless".

The warnings are reported to have been delivered by Chas Freeman, a former assistant secretary of defence who is among a group of former US officials regarded as "very old friends of China". Mr Freeman's contacts with senior

during Nixon's ground-breaking visit to China in 1972.

Peking reacted with fury last year when President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan made a so-called private visit to the United States, a move that appeared to foreshadow the end of Taiwan's diplomatic isolation. But the strength of the Chinese reaction seems to have drawn the United States back to its original "one-China" policy, which of-

Richard Nixon's interpreter in turn, has been less aggressive in pursuing its claims.

Now, however, China appears to be worrying that President Lee will triumph in the first-ever democratic election for a Chinese head of state and that he will use his mandate to canvass international support for Taiwan in the US.

The report says that Mr Freeman conveyed China's concerns to Anthony Lake, President Clinton's national security

as a renegade province. How-Peking officials go hack to the fers no scope for recognising the ever, a senior US official said days when be acted as President government of Taiwan. China, the matter was discussed at a jitters, officials said the report preparations for war have mul-Taiwanese to head the island's White House meeting of non-

government China specialists. The plan, according to Mr Freeman, is for one conven-tional missile strike a day for 30 days, not to start a war hut to warn the US to keep out of Sino-Taiwanese relations and to artillery fire. China last year persuade President Lee to

maintain a low profile. Mr Freeman, who has previously criticised President Lee in public, confirmed the report. In Taiwan, where talk of Chinese was unconfirmed, and could not provide a hasis for comment.

However, tension between had changed its criteria for the two sides of the Taiwan authorising a military invasion Strait is higher now than at any time since the late 1970s, when the two sides last exchanged launched a series of deliberately threatening military exercises off Taiwan's coast and the government in Taipei retaliated with a series of more modest military

of Taiwan, classifying the island as harbouring a "covert independence movement". Limited military action was justified, therefore, to prevent further breakaway moves.

tiplied, reaching a peak last No-

vember with reports that China

Officially both the Chinese and Taiwan governments are committed to a policy of re-unification hut China fears that

ing the two states further apart. Much of the Chinese military pressure has been aimed at undermining confidence in President Lee but the crude methods of intimidation seem to have backfired and placed the President in an unbeatable po-sition for the forthcoming presidential elections. China's best

hope now is to look for ways to

minimise his opportunities for

capitalising on his position.

government, is intent on draw-

#### IN BRIEF

#### US 'blue beret' objector court martialed

Bonn \_ An American soldier who refused to don the hlue beret of the UN peace-keeping forces in the former Yugoslavia was found guilty yesterday of disobeying a lawful order, writes Imre Karaes. Michael New, a 22-year old army medic serving in Germany, turned out for a parade in his regular US uniform as his unit set off for Macedonia last October. He argued that he had taken an oath of loyalty to the US, and not to the UN, which then commanded peace-keeping forces in the Balkans. He was given a bad-conduct discharge from the army. New is the first member of the US armed services court martialed for refusing to wear UN insignia on his uniform or to accept foreign command on a

#### Ethiopian Jews in 'tainted blood' row

Jerusalem - Ethiopian immigrants were enraged yesterday to learn Israel's blood bank bad for years been accepting their donations but disposing of their blood for fear of the HIV virus. The bead of the country's central blood bank, Amnon Ben-David, confirmed a newspaper report that virtually all blood from Ethiopians was summarily destroyed without any tests. The newspaper showed a picture of a blood unit marked: "Do not use because donor is from Ethiopia". Adiso Masala, of the Organisation of Ethiopian Immigrants, said that of 60,000 Ethiopians in Israel, 300 were infected with the HIV virus. But the Health Minister. Ephraim Sueb, said the rate of HIV among the Ethiopians was 50 times higher than the general population.

#### Utah firing squad in dress rehearsal

Salt Lake City—Five marksmen practised firing on command and a prison worker played the part of a convicted killer as Utah conducted a dress rebearsal for its first execution by firing squad in 19 years. John Albert Taylor, sentenced to die for raping and strangling an 11-year-old girl in 1988, will be led out of a holding cell, strapped into a chair and shot through the heart just after midnight tomorrow. Taylor, 38, will be the first inmate to die by firing squad since Gary Gilmore in 1977.

AP

#### Gaddafi discusses US Muslim role

Tunis - The Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, held talks with the visiting US black activist Louis Farrakhan on the formation of an effective Black Muslim lobby in the US. Libya's official news agency Jana reported that Col Gaddafi and Mr Farrakhan discussed at their meeting on Tuesday "the situation of Muslims in America and the ways to unify, mobilise, and organise them in proper institutions with the aim of getting an important and an influential role in the next US elections.

#### Internet dodges ban on Mitterrand book

Paris — Police said yesterday they had paid an informal visit to a provincial French "cybercafe" after it fed a banned book on the late president François Mitterrand's battle with cancer into the worldwide Internet computer network. A police inspector in Besancon, 40 miles east of Dijon, stressed the visit was not part of legal proceedings. The Cafe Web put on the Internet the book by Mitterrand's doctor Claude Gubler, which says the president, who died of cancer on 8 January, lied about his illness



Chain reaction: A man stands shackled at Tukyo's Shinjuku station as police evict homeless people from the building after commuters complained Photograph: Reuter

#### Polish PM forced to resign over links with KGB man

ADRIAN BRIDGE Central Europe Correspondent

Poland's Prime Minister, Jozef Oleksy, resigned last night after military prosecutors an-nounced their intention to investigate allegations that be spied for Moscow for more than a decade. "In the name of reasons of state, I bave decided to resign," Mr Oleksy said on Polish television. But be firmly reiterated his position that he mnocent.

Mr Oleksy, a former Communist, firmly denied the ac-cusations, which centre around his long friendship with a for-mer Russian diplomat who was simultaneously working as a colonel within the KGB.

In an interview published earlier this week, however, he conceded that the link had

been "imprudent". "I think I am guilty of a certain imprudence," Mr Oleksy told the weekly magazine Poli-

now, but I did not see it that way at the time," be said. The allegations against Mr

Oleksy have dominated Polish political life since they first surfaced in a dramatic final week of Lech Walesa's presidency at the end of last year. According to the then interior minister, Andrzej Milczanowski, Mr Oleksy had passed information, including classified docu-ments, to a KGB agent in Warsaw from the early 1980s until the time he became Prime

Minister last March. Mr Oleksy quickly confessed to having had a long association with the Russian diplomat Vladimir Alganov. But he denied any knowledge of Mr Alganov's KGB activities - or of having provided him with classified information.

For many Poles, the closeness of the relationship - regardless of whether any information was exchanged - has demonstrated a clear lack of judgement nka. "I can see it very clearly by Mr Oleksy. The centre-right

opposition, spearheaded by the former President, Lech Walesa, bas not surprisingly been bay-ing for his blood. More worrying for the Prime Minister. many members of his own former communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) felt he

should go.
"Mr Oleksy is being seen as a liability within his own party." said a Western diplomat, adding that many people regarded close contacts with Russian diplomats as having been "OK" un-

til 1989, but not so afterwards. A gleeful Mr Walesa yesterday said that in addition to Mr Oleksy resigning, the country should hold fresh parliamentary elections, not officially due until Sentember next year. Mr Walesa's successor, Alek-

sander Kwasniewski, another former Communist, has also indicated that early elections may be the only way out of this political crisis, which has almost totally eclipsed the first month

#### Gonzalez ally to be tried over hit squads

ELIZABETH NASH

manoeuvres.

Amid the storms lasbing Spain in recent days was a political thunderbolt that threatens to hlow asunder Felipe Gonzalez's election chances and possibly

wreck his party.
The Supreme Court is to try
the former interior minister Jose Barrionuevo, a member of the Prime Minister's inner circle, for setting up a hit-squad against Basque separatists and financing it from ministry slush funds.

The charges, announced yesterday by the Supreme Court judge Eduardo Moner, bring this most serious of the scandals to have eroded the Socialist government's credibility nearer than ever to Mr Gonzalez. For the moment, he is backing his former minister to the hill.

Mr Barrionuevo, who is on bail, is charged with illegal detention over the kidnap of a Frencb businessman mistaken for an Eta member; with misuse of public funds; and with association with an armed gang. the Anti-terrorist Liberation

Group, or Gal. Mr Moncr said "proven facts" pointed to Mr Barrionucvo as organiser of Gal and in particular its first act, the kidnapping of Segundo Marey. The former minister ordered Mr Marey to be held even after he was discovered to be the wrong man, apparently to put pressure on France.

The bombshell is a gift to the conservative Popular Party leader, Jose Maria Aznar, who, if he plays his cards right, may sail to absolute victory in general elections on 3 Murch.

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# Chechen rebels deliver hostages to safety

Brian Killen Reuters

Novogroznensky - Chechen rebels yesterday released 42 civilian hostages seized two weeks ago in the raid in the neighbouring region of Dages-tan which ended in a bloody showdown with Russian troops.

The hostages, looking tired but glad to be going home, left in a yellow bus from a two-

eastern Chechen town of Novogroznensky.
The bus, which followed a

convoy of cars with Dagestani officials and religious leaders, wound through a crowd of several hundred Chechens chanting "Allahu Akhbar" (God is greatest). Some people perched on trees to get a better view.

Most of the hostages said they had been well treated by the rebels and some exchanged warm storey school building in the farewells with their captors.

Some had been seized on 9 January, when the rebels herded 2,000 people into a hospital in the Dagestan town of Kizlyar to press their demands for Russian troops to be withdrawn from Chechnya after more than 13 months of conflict there. Others were captured in the village of Pervomayskoye near the Chechnya-Dagestan bor-

der, where the convoy of rebels

and hostages was blocked and

surrounded by Russian troops.

The Chechens are still holding some police commandos who were seized outside Pervomayskoye. They want to exchange them for rebels

captured by the Russian forces. The village was almost totally destroyed when the Russian troops stormed it. But a group of rebels broke out of the besieged village, through Russian lines, and took some of their hostages with them.

hrother to hrother. A new life began for us after we sat for three days under the bombing in Pervomayskoye," said Ruslan Magomedov, 23, a businessman from Kiziyar.

Another hostage, Anatoly Zdebsky, 25, said he was hapto be going back to his family and bore no grudges against the Chechens: They kept us in ostages with them. various homes, looked after us
"They were good to us. We and fed us well," he said.

nya-Dagestan border at about 5pm Moscow time in the direction of the Dagestani town of Khasavyurt, reported Tass news agency.

Before the release there was

a meeting in the school attended by the Dagestani dele-gation and Chechen rebel leaders including the commander in chief, Aslan Maskhadov.Salman Raduyev, who led the rebel raid in Dages-

of the Dagestani parliament, Gadji Makhachev, told the meeting that the group to be released were not really hostages. "These lads saved their lives," he said, referring to the fact that the rebels had taken them out of Pervomayskoye during the attack by the Russian forces. "The Chechens said we could

take our people home. They are our neighbours."

Mr Maskhadov told the aubandits. "We are not terrorists. We condemn terrorism and

banditry." he said. ■ Moscow — Six Russian soldiers were killed and two wounded in attacks by separatist rebels on Russian positions in Chechnya in the 24 hours up to yesterday afternoon. Interfax news agency reported that "illegal armed bands" had made 19 attacks in all, 13 of them in the capital Grozny.

# Burundi misery as 7,000 refugees flee 'no-go' area

**DAVID ORR** 

A ragged and harefoot group gathers around Leonard Niy-izigama, backs hunched against the wind that whips across the dusty hillside. Occasionally nue of the group nods or murmurs in agreement as the story unfolds. It is a drama in which they travellers and blowing up elechave all played a part, for they have all fled their homeland in similar circumstances and have suffered similar hardships.

"I and my family were living in Cibitoke," said Mr Niyizigama, glancing over his left shoulder towards the Burundian border, which lies about 10 miles away among the green-blue hills. "Then the army the United Nations High Comcame. We heard they were looking for guerrillas but then they began killing ordinary people. ... I ran away with my wife and children ... We had to hide for many days in the forest. We crossed the River Rusizi at night because the soldiers shoot at people crossing during the

day."
Mr Nihizigama and his family are among more than 7,000 Hutu peasants who have recently fled into eastern Zaire from the Burundian provinces of Cibitoke and Buhanza. In all, more than 100,000 Burundian refugees now languish in the

A man with his arm in a sling pointed to a scar on his arm. He said it was from a hullet wound he received when Burundian soldiers shot at him near the border. All the men and women in the group said they had lost friends or family members in attacks by the Burundian military. personnel said they were seeing Ngara, Tanzania (Reuter) most of the seriously wounded, they assume, are not making it across the Rusizi River.

gestion that they might go hume. It is too dangerous, they say. There must be peace and justice before they can return. And the army must become properly integrated, with both Hutus and Tutsis in its ranks. For the moment, they say, they have no confidence in the govthe largely Tutsi army that con-

trois the country. The north-western provinces have become a virtual no-go area. The Burundian military contends that its operations are directed at Hutu guerrillas who have recently become more organised, amhushing tricity and water installations. The evidence of the refugees turning up in Zaire, however. would seem to indicate that the army is far from discerning in its choice of targets.

Aid agencies, too, have suf-fered repeated attacks. Before Christmas, all the aid organisations, with the exception of missioner for Refugees, pulled out of the region. "We are now moving hack," said a World Food Programme spokesman, ... but until we can get some assurance from the local administrators, we cannot be sure that we are safe."

It is thought unlikely that Bu-rundi will be consumed by the same kind of genocide as wit-nessed in neighbouring Rwanda in 1994, if only because the two ethnic groups have been largely segregated; the Hutus in the countryside and the Tutsis in the towns. However, neither is there any evidence that the slow-burning civil war that broke out after the assassination in October 1993 of Burundi's first elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, is about to stop. Since the assassination extremists from both sides have become embroiled in a conflict which the government, a coalition of Hutu and Tutsi parties,

relatively few hullet wounds: A senior Tanzanian official said nn Wednesday his country was allowing in 16,000 Rwandans Deeing ethnic violence in Bu-These people scoff at the sug-estion that they might go ready to hundreds of thousands of refugees. Brigadier-General Sylvester Hemedi, district commissioner for Ngara area, said the decision was a humanitarian one and did not mean the border with Burundi, closed last year, was officially reopened for refugees.



Scant hope: An exhausted Hutu women, one of thousands of terrified Burundian refugees, sitting in a makeshift camp at Murama Photograph: AFP

# Palestinian exiles start long trek home

PATRICK COCKBURN

In 1972 Bassam Abu Sharif, a member of a militant Palestinian party, opened a boobytrapped copy of the Diary of Che Guevara, sent unexpectedly to him in the post. It exploded tearing off three of his fingers,

blinding him in one eye and destroying his hearing in one car. This week he was one of the first of what is expected to be a large number of members of the Palestinian resistance who will return to the West Bank and Gaza in the next few weeks.

Their return follows Israel's announcement on Saturday that all members of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, the Palestine National Council, can return to the autonomous areas.

clause that calls for the destruction of Israel.

However, Nayef Hawatmeh. leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said in Damascus that Israeli conditions. He called the Israeli offer a "studied plan to dismantle the PLO establishment".

"We are ready, leadership and members, to return home, said Mr Hawatmeh. "But that should not be under the conditions set by [Shimon] Peres," the Israeli Prime Minister. Speaking of the covenant Mr Hawatmeh added: "We refuse to recognise an Israel which does not recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

move from its covenant the of Mr Hawatmeh, whose organisation launched repeated guerrilla raids on Israel, would speed up the disintegration of those Palestinian organisations opposed to the Oslo accords.

The return of long-exiled Bank and Gaze is transforming Palestinian politics.

Mr Hawatmeh and his party were based primarily in the di-aspora of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan who lost their homes in what is now Israel in 1948. But it is the 2.2 million Palestinians who have gained autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, not the 3 million who live in the rest of the Arab world who are bene-

fiting from Oslo. "The West Bank and Gaza

political life in future," said a Palestinian observer who has just returned from exile. Mr Hawatmeb never had much support in the occupied terri-tories and the DFLP split five years ago. Along with the Pop-Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash, Mr Hawatmeh's or-

Saturday's election. Yasser Arafat, now elected President of the new Palestinian authority, once depended on the refugee communities of the diaspora. In 1970 they fought for him in Jordan, after which he transferred to Lebanon. Thousands were killed in the Lebanese civil war and during the Israeli invasion. Many of them feel betrayed today.

ganisation did not take part in

start of the inifada in the oc-cupied territories in 1987 began to make the West Bank and Gaza the decisive arena in Palestinian politics. In private Palestinian officials now acknowledge that Israel will not Final election results show

Palestinian voters liked articulate candidates likely to stand up to Mr Arafat. There were many votes for Hanan Ashrawi in Jerusalem, Saleh al-Tamari in Bethlehem and Haidar Abdel-Shafi in Gaza, who have criticised Mr Arafat. Powerful local families in Hebron, Nablus and Gaza whom Mr Arafat has cultivated all did badly. This shows voters might have supported the DFLP and PFLP, had they not boycotted the election.

#### Moscow to join rights grouping

TONY BARBER Europe Editor

The Council of Europe, one of the most important institutions linking Western and Eastern Europe, is expected to admit Russia today despite reserva-tions about President Boris Yeltsin's Chechnya crackdown. Although some memhers of the council's parliamentary assembly are critical of Russia's human-rights record there. most take the view that there is a better chance of encouraging change if Russia becomes the

council's 39th member-state. The Strasbourg-based body was established in 1949 to promote human rights and democracy. Originally exclusively West European, it expanded after Communism fell to include East European states, for which membership serves as a seal of approval for their new democ-

The council's secretary-general, Daniel Tarschys, of Sweden, said the council would not hesitate to take Russia to task if its performance failed to come up to scratch. He said the council could suspend memberstates, a fate that befell Greece during the 1967-74 dictatorship and Turkey after the 1980

military coup.

The council has been eager to embrace new members from Eastern Europe but has tried not to water down standards. Thus the rump Yugoslav state, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, had its "special guest" status withdrawn in June 1992 because of its role in fomenting

the wars in Croatia and Bosnia. Last year Russia's application vas frozen over the Chechnya intervention, which has killed 20,000 civilians. The council assembly lifted the freeze after it appeared truce talks were

making progress hut violence has recently been rising again. On Tuesday Mr Yeltsin said rejection would be interpreted as support for "Chechen ter-rorists". But Sergei Kovalyov, one of Russia's most respected human-rights campaigners, said the council should attach tough conditions on Chechnya in return for admitting Russia.

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Single currency: Doubts spark a 'credibility crisis'

# Brussels fights to stem panic as EMU totters

SARAH HELM Brussels TONY BARBER

) Safety

Doubts about the timetable and conditions for the creation of a European single currency rose

to fever pitch yesterday. Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the former French president, joined the ranks of senior pro-European politicians who have warned that imposing rigorous EMU conditions during an economic downturn could damage European coonomies and the stability of the European Union

The European Commission was yesterday desperately trying to shore up confidence in the plans to merge leading EU currencies by 1999. But the Commission has been infuriated by the remarks earlier this week of its former President, Jacques Delors, who suggested that the larget date set by the Maastricht Treaty in 1991 might have 10 he

There was also consternation at the remarks of Carlos Westendorp, the Spanish Foreign Minister, who said there was a secret understanding between European governments that EMU could not go ahead with France, Germany and the Benelux countries alone. Unless one other large country -Britain, Spain or Italy—was pre-pared to join by 1999, the EU would have to "stop the clock" sting Maastricht treaty. Comon the whole project, Mr Westendorp said. We are in a sitnation of a credibility crisis in

At a packed press conference in Brussels yesterday Jacques Sunter, President of the European Commission, attempted to hold the line, arguing that stop-ping the clock would "not stop the 21st century", and saying it was "irresponsible" to sow the

sceds of doubt.

However, Mr Santer suggested for the first time that the Commission might consider a review of the EMU membership rules, as proposed by Mr Giscard d Estaing. Under the plan put forward by the former French president the economic performance demanded of countries wishing to join EMU could be relaxed if the economic cycle was heading downwards. Such a plan would run into stiff opposition from Germany.

Mr Santer's aides were yesterday reported to be "spitting blood" over Mr Delors's intervention. "The view is that he is the guy who got us into this trouhle. It was he who proposed such rigid criteria. If there is any finger-pointing to be done it should be at him," said one official.

This week's crisis - sparked by poor economic figures and forecasts in Germany and France - has revealed for the first time that European leaders are beginning actively to examme mechanisms for delaying monetary union. Some experts in Brussels are discussing isting Maastricht treaty. Commission officials are currently drawing up a legal opinion

ing a delay without rewriting the Maastricht treaty.

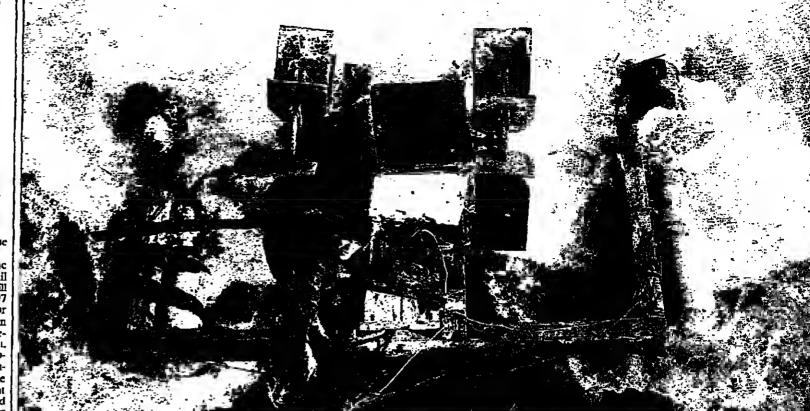
The EU is not due to name participating countries until early 1998, and the decision he made on the basis of 1997 economic performance. For this reason, it is unlikely that an announcement delaying or re-vising the timetable is imminent.

Adopting the Giscard ap-proach - relaxing the EMU conditions rather than the timetable - would mean that countries would not be obliged to bring their budget deficits to 3 per cent of GDP or below in 1997, but could allow them to run slightly higher. Such a lib cral interpretation would favour many countries that are having trouble reducing their deficits in time, notably France, although Germany also overshot the

target last year. But Germany's Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, has set out conditions so diametrically opposed to those of Mr Giscard d'Estaing that it is hard to see how they could be reconciled. He says governments using the Euro currency should ideally run deficits of no more than 1 per cent of GDP, should be fined if they break the rules, and should be expelled from the single-currency arena if they are

persistent offenders. Still, it appears that a frantic search is on for ways to prevent the collapse of the 1999 timetable. "If we fail, I fear we will start an irreversible disintegration process," said Belgium's Prime Minister, Jean-

Luc Dehaene.



Power to the people: Repairing a makeshift generator on the Drina river yesterday, as life returns to the Bosnian enclave of Goradze Photograph: Al

# EU officials approve ban on veal crates

KATHARINE BUTLER

Detailed proposals for a ban on veal crates were cleared by the European Commission yesterday but face tough French-led opposition when they go before agriculture ministers for approval next month.

Brussels officials fear that with Italy, one of the big veal-producing nations, holding the EU to highlight the treatment of confirmed the approach outlined presidency until July, agreement calves shipped to France, Bellast month, which calls for a ban presidency until July, agreement could be stalled until the autumn.

Animal rights groups have al-ready complained that the proposals do not go far enough fast chough, but yesterday's agreement nevertheless represents a breakthrough for campaigners. British protesters have waged the most relentless campaign.

disrupting the live export trade

calves shipped to France, Bel-gium and the Netherlands.

The EU Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, who drafted the plan, has had to bow to producer lobbying with a 10year transition period, but is emerging as more sympathetic to animal welfare concerns than any of his predecessors. The Commission yesterday

on new crates from January 1998. Farmers who are already using crates will have until 2008

to switch to loose housing. The Commission warned it will soon issue new rules forcing producers to vary calves' diet; milk feed used to guarantee white meat will have to be

plained the 10-year delay as striking a balance between campaigners' demands and stability in the markets. However, the fate of the proposals depends on the extent to which France, the higgest veal producer, can muster support in the Council of Ministers. Italy may seek a compromise if producers can be

promised compensation.

# German belts tighten as jobless total passes 1929

which, sources say, will affirm

Battered by rising unemployment, workers, employers and the German government yesterday joined forces in an effort to halve the number of jobless by the year 2000.

After long talks at Chancellor Helmut Kohl's office, the three sides unveiled a pact to create jobs, cut the welfare state, reduce taxes and implicitly help Germany meet conditions for the creation of a single European currency in 1999.

We have an accord which lays out principles upon which we can work to form a consensus and create better conditions for increasing employment," said Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister.

Although the package will not be released until next week, officials indicated their attention will focus on reducing the employers' hurden. Social se-curity contributions are to be cut over six years, mirrored by a reduction in the welfare budget. There will be help for mediumsized enterprises and growth will be stimulated by infrastructure projects funded by local authorities. Employers agreed to increase apprenticeships by 5 per cent, curtail overtime and create more part-time jobs. The unions are paying a



Kohl: Benefits must be cut

short-term contracts for new employees, they are giving up job security. They are also sacrificing workers' traditional right to expect wage rises above the annual inflation rate, which employers say has made them the most expensive in the de-veloped world. Much of industry's trouble is ascribed to a two-year pay rise at twice the inflation rate, awarded to the higgest union, 1G Metall, after strikes last year. But IG Metall's leader, Klaus

Zwickel, has since accepted the link between wage levels and unemployment, and has proposed a pay freeze in exchange for a pledge by the engineering industry to create 330,000 jobs.

Jobs' between labour and capital was the catalyst for yesterday's breakthrough, described by one minister as "unparalleled in Europe".

The workers also implicitly accepted cuts in the welfare state. Unemployment benefits are to be reduced by 3 per cent each year. Although the unions staved off attempts to abolish the generous early-retirement schemes, the government has won the battle to raise the normal pensionable age. The pact comes amid apoc-

alyptic predictions of a crash on a Weimar scale. Unemployment, expected to reach 4 million within the next month, has passed the 1929 level. Forecasts for growth hover barely above 1 per cent. Almost every day there are more lay-offs. Daimler-Benz, the flagship of German industry, reported earlier this week losses of 6bn marks (£2.6bn) for 1995. About 8,000 workers at a Dutch subsidiary and 1,200 in Germany are about to land in the dole queue.

Now industry has got an agreement that it hopes will reverse its fortunes. But it seems inevitable that the government's hudget will be stretched for some time to come, and will exceed the target set by the Maastricht treaty for European

monetary union.
City Comment, page 17

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#### French union threatens more action against welfare reform MARY DEJEVSKY seemed to give the lie to the tional amendments provide for view, canvassed in the French

There were fears yesterday of renewed labour unrest in France as the CGT trade union one of those at the forefront of the strikes last November and December - called for a national "week of action" starting on 5 February. The union said it wanted to force the complete withdrawal of the government's plans for welfare reform.

The franc immediately fell at the news; the success of the retrenchment plans is essential to French hopes of joining the European Monetary Union by the 1999 timetable.

The CGT's call came on a day when the government put into place the first main elements of its controversial reform, approving two sets of measures designed to restore the welfare system to financial soundness. A third element, the constitutional amendments required to give parliament ultimate responsibility for welfare spend-

ing, should be approved today. Both the union's call to arms and the details of the measures

media, that the intended overhaul of the welfare system had been emptied of all its worth by the compromises forced on the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé.

As the price for securing an end to the strikes, Mr Juppé conceded almost all aspects of the reform that lay outside the immediate control and restructuring of health and welfare spending. He abandoned the review of public sector conditions and pensions, postponed a reform of income tax, shelved the restructuring plan for the national railways and approved more money for universities.

In subsequent compromises, the doctors forced the withdrawal of a tax of 1 franc on all prescriptions they issued; opposition from inside the majority Gaullist coalition then forced a month's postponement in the introduction of a new tax to pay back the accumulated debt of the welfare system and the shandonment of

plans to tax family allowances. What remains, however, is not

parliament to have the last word on welfare spending, rather than a joint committee made up mainly of trade union and employers' representatives. At present, the government sets spending guidelines for the com-mittee, but no more. In future, whatever ceiling is set should be enforceable by parliament.

Parliament has insisted on oversight of the welfare system's revenue, as well as its spending. The receipts, which amount to 118hn francs (£16bn) - more than the state budget - are the province of the joint welfare commission.

There are to be financial sanctions on doctors who spend beyond the hudget limits set by the government. The freeze on family allowances for 1996 was also confirmed

But it is the special tax to re-pay the welfare debt - known as the RDS (remboursement de la dette sociale) - that will come as the greatest shock and could fuel the unions' call for action. The RDS comes into force next month: a 0.5 per cent levy meonsiderable. The constitu-

£25.000 of mights and molidays to be won

Photograph: David Hunter / RFH

# Norman MacCaig

Joe, the young barman in the Auld Clachan (not one of the howffs which MacCaig frequented) said when I showed him the front-page news, "I guess he'll be more famous now that he's deid." Il was typically modest of Norman Mac-Caig not to die on Burns's birthday, but good, if a death can be good, that it came in a week when people need re-minding that Scotland has other great poets.

Joe went to one of the few schools in Scotland which Mac-Caig did not visit, under the Scottish Arts Council Writers in Public scheme. While auld wifies on the Edinburgh buses have been mourning the loss of the city's special poet, there are kids all over Scotland who studied MacCaig's contact the sun, escapedally politics and Assun, escapedally politics and Assundance and Ass ied MacCaig's poetry for exams but, more importantly, saw this ravaged Caesar stride into their lives and read perfect poetry to

I don't know if Ali Smith, the brilliant young short-story writer, first encountered him that way, but when Joy Hendry gathered together the tributes of scores of Scottish writers to celebrate Norman MacCaig's 85th birthday last year, Smith, who lives in Cambridge now, came up with one of the best Whenever I travel to the rail track home / I can't help it, I think of that casual MacCaig poem/The one where he's sit-ting smiling to himself on the London/Edinburgh train/soar-

ing North, yes, here we go, here comes again."

Scotland has three languages for poetry. MacCaig's was the English of Edinburgh, where he was born, and became a primary-school teacher, never aspiring to be greater, in a worldly sense, than that, though later both Edinburgh and Stirling Universities were honoured to have him on their staff, talking to students about writing with that aversion to bullshit which was his hallmark. The surprise was that this elegant, modest man was the closest friend of King Bullshit, Hugh Mac-Diarmid. They were diametrical opposites. MacDiarmid wrote, in a poem called "Aesthetics", "Words with Greek roots / and American escrecially politics and Angio-phohia. MacCaig, a pacifist who suffered for his principles blossoms / have taken over the in the Second World War depretty garden." tained in Wormwood Scrubs, wrote frequently, with vast affection, before and after Mac-Diarmid's death, about his tankie friend. But MacCaig's

other great poets of post-war Eastern Europe. Hard work as a primary-school teacher. Weekend evenings in Milne's Bar, in Rose Street, by Hanover Street,

politics, what you see in his

verse, were those of the independent individual. They are

short poems. Each makes, in-cisively, its point. The affinity.

just off Princes Street, by the Mound. There he formed one of a legendary quadrumvirate: MacDiarmid, if he was up from Biggar, Sydney Goodsir Smith, and Robert Garioch. The other three wrote, or had written, in Scots. They were all very much aware of the great Gaelic poet Sorley Maclean. In Mac-Caig's verse, you bear, enunciated or echoed, the three leids. And the substratum is Greek and Latin. He studied Classics at Edinburgh, after going to that school steeped in Classics, the Royal High. He talked about the Celtic feeling for form which he derived from Gaelic forebears, not, usually, about that grounding. But be

Summers in Lochinver. Suilven, his special mountain. Fishven, his special mountain. Fishing, walking, "I look up/at the eagle idling over / from Kylescu / I look away / at the shattering waterblink/of Loch Cama." Sorley Maclean wrote that MacCaig had given the Suthertand landscape new meaning. He honoured his Gaelic grannies in very heautiful English beautiful English.

as many have pointed out, is with Herbert and Holuh and The career was extraordinary. I am tempted to write "by-ordinar". One of the things which MacCaig confessedly loved about MacDiarmid was the old man's rescue of Scottish.

expressions. MacCaig was into his thirties before he published two books of poems. These be-longed to the Neo-Apocalyptic School, rampant on the "Celtic Fringes" in the 1940s. Later, he disavowed them to the extent that one fancied that only an in-nate respect for scholarship prevented him destroying the copies lodged in the National Library of Scotland.

As that school went, they

weren't bad. He came into his own, though, in his forties, with Riding Lights, published in 1955.
At this point he might be, and was, mistaken for a Scottish relative of the Movement. He wrote, Celtically, in formal measures. Another book in the Fifties, and acclaim. Then the verse relaxed. Five books in the Sixties, increasingly deploying that throwaway-seeming free verse. Five later ones, written at an age when most poets have given it up for golf. The New Collected Poems, of 1990, did and did not round off a reputation. Even after that, folk young and old in Edinburgh (and I must add, Glasgow and Inverness) listened avidly for the

itch of his scribble. MacCaig bad no religious convictions, though his poetry is infused with the seriousness of the Presbyterian tradition. He had no party politics. though rumour insists that he voted SNP. MaeDiarmid blurts it all, wonderfully, up front. MacCaig's messages are

about quiet decency, in quiet

places. His place in Scottish literaoure is unique, as the best recent writer in English, pure English. The achievement wins praise where you don't expect it. I was out on the tiles a few months ago with a young skinhead Scottish writer domiciled on what I suppose we will come to what I suppose we will come to call the Irvine Weish Heritage Trail. He surprised me by ex-pressing his utter love of Mac-Caig's verse. We deplored together the fact that MacCaig was in failing health, never quite himself again after the loss of his much-loved consort, Isabel. We plotted to surprise him with a bottle of whisky in his home in Learnington Terrace. We never did it. I regret that, I offer, too late, this poem: "Your death is beyond belief / which you never had, anyway / It comes upon one as a private grief / - the ultimate enemy.

Angus Calder

Norman Alexander MacCaig poet: born Edinburgh 14 No-vember 1910; FRSL 1965; Fellow in Crentive Writing, Edinburgh University 1967-69: Lecturer in English Studies, Stir-ling University 1970-72, Reader in Poetry 1972-77; OBE 1979; ARSA 1981; FRSE 1983; Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 1986; married 1940 Isabel Munro (died 1990; one son, one daughter); died Edinburgh 33 January

#### Léonor Fini

In the 17th century Leonor Fini would have been burnt as a witch. Surrounded by cats, and with feline eyes berself, she exuded what her one-time lover Max Ernst described as "Italian fury, scandalous elegance, cap-rice and passion." In pho-tographs you would take her for beautiful in the manner of Bianca Jagger hut, according to the American art dealer Julian Levy, she was not a beauty as such, in that "Her parts did not fit well together: head of a lioness, mind of a man, hust of a woman, torso of a child, grace of an angel, discourse of the

Levy confirms my belief that if she had been born in the age of the extra teat and the familiar. this lady was for hurning.
"Her allure," he says, "was an ability to dominate her misfitted parts so that they merged into whatever shape her fantasy wished to present from one moment to the next." You can

genetic cocktail. She was born in Buenos Aires in 1908 but grew up in Trieste. Her formal education was, as might he imagined given her independent and imperious temperament, fragmentary, but she had the run of her uncle's large library in Milan and also travelled widely in Italy and Europe visiting all the museums and taking in such then unfashionable painters as the Mannerists, a school later reflected in her own work. In reproduction she was to add Beardsley, the German Romantics and the British Pre-Raphaelites - all evidence of a

Her facility was precocious. By the time she was 17 she was already painting commissioned portraits. It was however in 1936 when she moved to Paris and became friendly with Ernst. the Eluards, Brauner and others, that she began to paint Surrealist images and to draw close to the movement. Close but not Léonor Fini was of mixed rary Frida Kahlo, Fini refused

the iconic role of child-woman or to accept his belief in l'amour fou, the monogamist obsession with one person as opposed to hisexual narcissism. She did however exhibit with the group as a kind of fellow traveller.

For Whitney Chadwick, the feminist author of that remarkable and very carefully titled book Women Arists and the Surrealist Movement (1985), she is a hero, as indeed are any of the women Surrealists who failed to be seduced by Breton's good manners and formidable charisma. He in his turn was shocked - for he was in many ways extremely puritanical - by her sometime scandalous be-haviour and her fondness for the company of homosexuals (Breton was for whatever reason a ferocious bomophobe).

How good an artist was she? Not a great one, certainly, but a very interesting one. There are echoes of de Sade (at one point she illustrated his Justine) but it most extreme imagery Fini re-

picture called The End of the World, an apocalyptic enough subject, you might bave thought. It shows a beautiful young woman up to her breasts in black swampy water on which float the skulls of various creatures under a red sunset. I have my suspicions that this may have its origins, given Find's en-thusiasm for the Pre-Raphaelites, in Holman Hunt's The Scapegoot, but, whereas Hunt's vision is tragic if slight-

ly absurd, Fini's, as so often, is rather camp. The young open to everything the tem-woman's hair for exclusive has perantire rises only when two of obviously just been set by a fashionable Parisian crimper. The swamp and the dead animals, while suggesting putrefaction, in no way imply the stench of decay. On the contrary one suspects it is all more likely to smell of Schiaparelli's "Shocking", for which Fini designed the bottle in the shape of a naked female torso. She was also a very talented illustrator in the glossy

alarmed by her depictions of it. That astute critic the late Robert Meiville described one of her corpses as "a bright green cadaver daintily spotted with magenta hlood". Even death is turned "all to prettiness and favour".

Yet there's nothing wrong with camp, after all, "the lie that tells the truth", and especially in her Sapphic paintings Fini achieved high camp of the first order. While she claimed categorically not to be a lesbian but her elegant and immaculate girls are involved. On the other hand her men (or, to be more accurate, youths) are balletic and androgynous, lounging about lethargically, toyboys in a precise sense. It is the tall and seriously beautiful women, more often than not selfportraits, who one feels will direct or have directed the action.

Her erotic masterpiece is Léonor Fini was indeed ob- ney. It's based on a beautiful and Slavie blood, a formidable Breton, and declined to accept 1949 for example she painted a the spectator is not at all picture by Augustus Egg of two gust 1908; died 18 January 1996. Women Artists and the Surrealist Movement (Thames & Hudson)

Alice Acheson

almost identically dressed girls facing one another across a railway carriage. The blind is up, its tassel swinging to suggest the train is in motion. In Fini's version the blind, with its frieze of cupids, is down. One girl, in Melville's perfect description; "while enclosing her unisex lover between her legs, graciously assumes the air of a victim and has neatly freed one hreast from her corselet to imply that it has been forcibly uncovered ... This interpretation could be a projection of his fantasy but, looking again at the picture, I suspect not. Anyway,

s a wonderful erotic image. Léonor Fini has died at the age of 87 but it's impossible to imagine her old. She will always be, for those of us who admired her, the wild, raven-haired, illproportioned heauty who haunts her pictures. The lethal yet irresistible sphinx, the vampire we would most like to



Spanish, Italian, Argentinian. to bend her knee before André mained totally in control. In sessed with death, but somehow calm but charged 19th-century Leonor Fini, artist: born 30 Au- Self-portrait by Fini, oil on canvas, 1942-43; from Whitney Chedwick,

Alice Acheson, the widow of that it was the Achesons' din-Dean Acheson, Secretary of State to President Harry S. Truman from 1949 to 1953, was a bandsome, elegant lady of immense charm. She was also a talented painter in oil and water-colour who exhibited in many American galleries and museums. Her subjects included Washington scenes as well as portraits and landscapes of foreign countries which she and her husband had visited over the

She was of flinty material, not afraid of telling Winston Churchill that his palette was "too hright" or Henry Kissinger

ner time and that he must finish his discussion with Dean. She was aged about 85 when she was threatened near her home in Georgetown by a youth with a gun. He demanded that she should hand over her purse, containing a substantial amount of money she had just withdrawn from the bank to buy Christmas presents. She immediately boxed his ears, telling him that he should be ashamed of menacing an old lady in

hroad daylight. Alice Stanley was the daugh-ter and granddaughter of artists. Her grandfather, John Mix Stanley, was renowned for de- was a flamboyant, glamorous, picting American Indian life in beautiful redhead who regardthe Wild West. Her mother ed social conventions as testing was a water-colourist who enobstacles put in the way of talented people to overcome. couraged her daughter, growing Margot Acheson invited Alup in Detroit, to start painting at a very early age. Alice went on to study art at Wellesley College, in Massachusetts, where one of her friends was Dean

ice Stanley to visit the home of her British-born father, Bishop E.C. Acheson, in Middletown, Connecticut, where Stanley met Acheson's sister Margaret. This her future husband. They were friendship, according to Alice's married shortly before her gradson David Acheson, was the atuation, and moved to Washtraction of opposites. "Alice ington, for Dean Acheson had become the private secretary to Stanley was a classic hrunette Justice Louise Dembitz Branbeauty, artistic, reserved, raised in a Midwest family of strong in-dependence and high regard for education. Margaret, or Margot, came a professional painter, at

then branching out into oils. By the late 1930s she had exhibited at the Corcoran Museum and the Phillips Collection in Washington, and at numerous other galleries around the United States, and had been in-

cluded in at least one major travelling exhibition.

During the Second World War, she abandoned painting to head the American Women's Voluntary Service Group, training women to work on Maryland farms. (The Achesons had bought a farm in Maryland in the 1920s, from where she reg-ularly rode to hounds.) She

first mostly in water-colours, and also taught drawing and painting to wounded soldiers. During the time that Dean

Acheson was Secretary of State she continued to paint, but gave up exhibiting, not wishing to trade on his fame. She played an important supporting role to him, and much of her time was taken up with travelling and re-ceiving political visitors to

Washington. Alice Acheson was a fanatical Scrabble player, and would corral any visitor to join her in a game. She was proud of the fact that she had once beaten 1971; one son, two daughters); Queen Frederika of Greece playing Scrabble in French.

Some time back Mrs Acheson, like occasional other ladies, shaved a year off her age, but about four years ago, as her hundredth hirthday ap-proached, she went back to her true age, and enjoyed the celebratory party her family gave her last summer.

Leonard Miall

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Alice Caroline Stanley, artist: born Charlevoix, Michigan 12 August 1895; educated Wellesley College; married 1917 Dean Gooderham Acheson (died died Washington DC 20 January

#### Births, Marriages & Deaths

#### DEATHS

NICHOLS: Kenneth John Heastey.
On 24 January, peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers.
Belowed husband of Pamela and daerly loved father, grandfather and friend. Private family funeral, Thanksgiving service to be amounced later.

#### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

FELLOWS: Howard Alwan. The Service of Thanksgiving will take place at All Saints Church, Sproughton, Suffolk, on Monday 29 January at 3pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations towards respiratory research payable to Dr Russell Hall may be sent to Farthing, Singleton and Hastings, 650 Woodbridge Road, lpswich IP4 4PW.

#### IN MEMORIAM

MATTHEWS: T.J. (née Davall), 25 January 1992. In loving memory. Peter, Clio and Ella.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversuries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing Memoriam) should be seat in writing in the Gazette Editor. The Independent. I Camada Square, Canary Whatf, London Et 4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-bour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 56.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette answering inputing, functions, Forthereseents (protices, functions, Forthereseents) (VAT extra). OTHER Cazette an-mountements (notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages; must be submitted in writing (or faced) and are charged at £10 a fine, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime

#### **Forthcoming**

#### marriages Mr W.D. Symington and Miss J. P. Booth

The engagement is announced be-tween William, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Symington, and Juliet, daughter of Sir Christopher Booth and Dr Lavinia Loughridge

#### Mr C. J. Wilkins

and Miss M. S. Hamilton The engagement is announced be-tween Christopher, son of Mrs Claire Wilkins, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Madeleine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stewart Hamilton, of Hollow Meadows, Sheffield.

Birthdays The Rev Professor George Anderson, theologian, 83: Sir Tom Arnold MP, 49: Mr Raymond Baxter, broad-Blakenham, chairman and chief executive, Pearsoo plc, 58; The Most Rev Dermot Clifford, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, 57; Vice-Admiral Sir David Clutterbuck, 83; Sir Paul Girolami, former chairman, Glavo Holdings, 70: Mr Brian Hayes, Deputy Commis-sioner, Metropolitan Police, Str. Lord fliffe, former vice-chairman, Birm-ingham Post and Mail, 88; Professor Geoffrey Lloyd, Master, Darwin College, Cambridge, 63; Sir James Mellon, lormer diplomat, 67: Sir David Nicholas, former chairman and chief executive, ITN, 66; Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. 63: Mr William O'Brien MP, 67: Air Commodore April Reed, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 66; The Right Rev Anthony Russell, Area Bishop of Dorchester, 53; Mr David Shattock,

Chief Constable, Avon and Somer-

set, 60: Miss Angela Thome, actress, 57; Professor Edward Ullendorff, philologist of Semitic languages, 76; Admiral Sir Peter White, former Chief of Fleet Support, 77.

#### Anniversaries

Births: St Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, 1540; Robert Boyle, physicist and chemist, 1627; Pompeo Girotamo Batoni, painter, 1708; Robert Burns, poet, 1759; Daniel Maclise, painter, 1806; Joho Arbuthnot Fisher, first Baron Fisher, admiral, 1841; William Somerset Maugham, au-thor, 1874; Adeline Virginia Woolf, author, 1882; Wilhelm Furtwängler, conductor, 1886; Dame Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, actress, 1891. Deaths: Lucas Cranach the Younger, painter, 1586; Dorothy Wordsworth, writer, 1855; Frederick Leighton, first Baron Leighton, painter and sculptor, 1896; Ouida (Maria Louise de la Ramée), author, 1908; Al (Alphonse) Capone, gangster, 1947; Robertson Hare, actor, 1979; Ava Lavinia Gardoer, actress, 1990. Oa this day: Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn, 1533; William Henry Fox Talbot published a description of his in-vention, the photographic negative, 1839; Maj-Gen Idi Amin deposed Milton Obote, president of Uganda, 1971; the Labour MPs David Owen, William Rodgers and former MPs Mrs Shirley Williams and Roy Jenk-

National Gallery: Virginia Button, "The National Gallery during World

ins announced they would set up a Council for Social Democracy, 1981.

Today is Burns Night and the Feast

Day of the Conversion of St Paul, St

Apollo, St Artemas, St Dwynwen, Saints Juventinus and Maximinus, St

Poppo, St Praejectus or Prix and St Publius.

#### War Two (iv): 'A warlike state can-not create . . ?', British War Art 1939-45", tpm.

University College London, London WC1: Professor Judith Masson, Representation of Children current legal problems 1995-96", 5.15pm.

#### Dinners

Coningsby Chub Mr Jereny Hunt, Chairman, and the committee of the Coningsty Club, hosted a dinner last night at the Carton Club, London SW1. Mr Max Hastings, Editor, Evening Standard, was the guest of bonour and speaker. Mr Peter Brooke MP presided.

#### Worshipful Company

of Barbers Professor Henry Roseveare, Professor of History at King's College London, gave the 19th Sir Lionel Denny Lecture at the Museum of Landon, London EC2, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Barbers His subject was "Politics and Profit in the 18th-century Port of London". Professor Donald Barltrop, Master of the Company, presided at a supper held afterwards in Barber-Surgeons' Hall, London EC2.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROTAL ENVIOLENTERING TO THE PRINCE ROUGH PARTIES TO THE PRINCE ROUGH PARTIES OF DEMOCRATION, ASSESSED AS THE SPORTS DO SOCIAL COMPLEX OF VANISHED PARTIES DO SOCIAL COMPLEX OF VANISHED HOUSE, LUISO, BESTOCKHOTE, The Delive of Glovestoc, Parcos, Persisphal Company of Patternmains, attends the Annual Banquet at the Manison House, London ECL. The Duckens of Glovestock releads a reception given by the British College of Optionstriats, to torak the granting of a Royal Chart of theoryto zation in the Call Library, Credible London ECL.

Changing of the Guard

#### Court will order supermarket to keep open Co-operative Insurance Society

Ltd v Argyll Stores (Holdings) Ltd: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Millen); 21 December 1995

The court would enforce a covenant in a lease to "keep open" retail premises where damages were an inadequate remedy for breach of the

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Millett dissenting) allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Co-operative Insurance, from Judge Maddocks QC's refusal to order specific performance against the defendant. Argyll Stores, requiring it to keep open one of its supermarkets for the remainder

term of its lease. The plaintiff let the key area of a shopping centre to Argyll for use as a Safeway supermarket for a term of 35 years from 1979. The lease contained a covenant requiring the tenant to "keep the demised premises open for retail trade during the usual hours of business. It trad-ed until May 1995 when Argyll decided to selt it as it made a loss. The plaintiff was anxious about the effect of the closure on the whole centre and re- have been advised also that the quested that the supermarket making of an order was dis-

#### LAW REPORT

ary rent until an assignee for the keep open might be made if the lease was found. Argyll did not respond and instead stripped out the shop. It would cost £1m

to reinstate. The plaintiff applied for mance. It would do the court ed the covenantor on the judgment against Argyll. The no credit if in those circum-payment of money. judge, referring to the general practice that damages rather than specific performance was the appropriate remedy for the practice not to do so. The any hreach of a keep open covenant, concluded that damages were the appropriate

remedy. Peter W'Smith QC and Paul Chaisty (BKI Lewis) for the plaintiff; Jonathan Gaunt QC and Martin Seaward (T.H.B. Bamford & Co. Hayes) for

Lord Justice Leggatt said that the so-called rule that contracts involving the continuous performance of services would not be specifically enforced was plainly not absolute and without exception. Even if Argyll might have been advised when it entered into the lease that if it found it unprofitable it could disregard its promise to keep the shop open on payment of damages, it should

25 January 1996

court considered that to be the appropriate remedy. This was a proper case in which to grant specific perfor-

stances the court refrained from granting an injunction on the ground that it bad become result would be that the common form of words of the covenant would hardly ever, if ever, be construed as meaning what they said. If the parties wanted to contract that a failure to keep open would sound

only in damages, they were at liberty to do so. The plaintiff would have very considerable difficulty in trying to prove its toss. An award of damages would be unlikely to compensate it fully; and the losses of the other tenants of the shopping centre would be irrecoverable. Argyll had acted with unmitigated commercial cynicism, preferring to resist a claim for damages rather than keep an unambiguous promise. The order of specific performance

should be granted. Lord Justice Roch, concurbe kept open at a concession- cretionary and an order to ring, said that the basic issue

was whether damages were an adequate remedy. It was not hefpful to ask whether a covenant in a lease sounded only in damages. Nor was it consistent with respect for the law to say that a clear undertaking freely entered into could be disregarded when that suit-

payment of money.
Damages were not an adequate remedy. Specific per-formance would require Argyll to operate a supermarket at the premises until 2014 or when an asssignee was obtained. The obligation to carry on business was defined with sufficient certainty. Argyll had acted wantonly and unreasonably.

Lord Justice Millett, dissenting, said that the existence of the court's practice to decline to require a defendant to reopen a business was beyond dispute. To compel a defendant for an indefinite period to carry on a business which he considered was not viable was oppressive. An award of damages reflected normal commercial expectations. Consistent practice made the law. The equitable jurisdiction should not be exercised to defeat the commercial expectations of the parties at the time when they entered into their contractual obligations.

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

The Harman affair tested to the limit John Prescott's commitment to his leader. But will he always fall in line? David Aaronovitch reports

# The trials of the loyal servant

As Tony Blair battled to hold his cad above the tide of Tory scorn the House of Commons on Thesday, the danger was epito-thised by the demeanour of the man next to him. John Prescott was not happy. He scowled, his arms folded tightly across his chest, when John Major was launting Mr Blair. But worse still he seewled when his ender responded, trying to rally the roops. Here was a man who, for all his dislike of his political enemies, seemed deeply disonchanted with his friends. Had he decided that afternoon to give his leader an ulti-matum - either Harriet goes or 1 do - the uneasy relationship between Mr Blair and his deputy would have collapsed. But that is not all: Mr Blair's relationship with

his party would have collapsed too. Bur Mr Prescott didn't issue his ultimatum. Yesterday he helped to save both Ms Harman's and Mr Blair's bacon. He and his lieutenants let everyone know it was time for the row to stop. But given his obvious unhappiness why did he act to stem the rebellion? And, more importantly, can Mr Blair rely upon his volatile deputy in the bruising times ahead: is there no limit to his loyalty?

. In some ways it is extraordinary that their partnership has lasted at all. They are very different. Prescott is cruberant and ostentanous; he likes his laguar and his taste for Caribbean holidays was recently exposed when he got caught un one hit by a murricane. Blair is more mytight, ascetic, avowedly of the professional classes and less open about enjoying himself.

More important, the two men have different relationships with the party. In 1966 when former Cunard steward and trade union firehrand John Prescott was stand-

Blair revolution had stumbled. the 12-year-old Blair was soliciting votes as the Conservative candidate in his private school's mock election. Prescott is attuned to the older melodies of the Labour Party. His boss is the opposite, accused by left-wing critics like MEP Ken Coates of not having "the faintest idea of how socialisis think, or understanding of the mentality of the party that he leads".

Blair appeals to the burgeoning middle classes because he comes from outside the culture of Old Lahour. He travels unencumbered by sentimental attachments to the ancient verities of "The Movement". But the journey that is emotionally and intellectually easy for him is deeply troubling for many in his party. It was the distress of this transition that was apparent

on Mr Prescott's face two days ago. Yer the Harman affair was only the latest (if the most serious) of a series of clashes since their election

in the summer of 1994, One of the few perks of a deputy's role is to be confided in, consulted about the key decisions. But on some key occasions in the past 18 months Mr Prescott has found himself well outside it. There was the strategy summit meeting held by Blair and key advisers last spring in the New Forest, to which Mr Prescott was not invited. Nor was the member for Hull best pleased by the leaking of an imporlant memo from PR man, Philip Gould, which warned that Labour wasn't fit to govern. Prescott had hever seeo it. Incredibly this mistake was repeated over the Harman husiness. The deputy leader first learned about it from this newspa-per. "It was our cock-up", a Blair man told me, "we each thought that the other had rold him".

Clause Four, arguing in private that was a diversion. He is known to have disagreed with Gordon Brown's emphasis on low inflation combined with no tax increases. Last year's Conference decision to further cut the union block vote left

Yel Prescoll has a seemingly limitless capacity for loyalty. Each time he has swallowed his disappointment and got on with the busioess of selling the new tine to the party and the country. On Clause

#### The journey that is emotionally easy for Blair is deeply troubling for many in his party

Four, once Blair made it clear that he was intent on change. Prescott threw himself into helping his leader write the new clause, contributing some important sections himself. "He has the argument in private. But when the decision has been taken John fights for it", says

one of his supporters. The main reason for this discioline is obvious. Like most Labour MPs Prescott is desperate to win the next election and understands that Blair is fundamental to vicjory. He yearns for a Heseltinetype Deputy Prime Minister's role. chairing committees on the economic regeneration of the country. So far Blair has not promised The other had told him".

The more important differences ing him keen", one Labour insider believes. "Once its all in the bag. John may not be so pliable". Others also believe that Prescott is intrigued by Blair, and that part of him rather likes ripping up the past and starting again. They point to Prescott's championing (when shadow Transport Secretary) of the use of private finance to sup-plement public investment. John is convinced that the Tories stole the Private Financing Initiative from him", says a Brown aide.

Prescott knows that Blair has a lot invested in him. A precedent for how vital Prescon could be comes from Mrs Thatcher's days. In 1981. beset by recession, she relied upon deputy Prime Minister William Whitelaw to make Thatcherism palatable to a largely hostile party. He did sterling service to a revolution that he did not believe in. "Everybody needs a Willie," said Thatcher afterwards. Prescon plays that role for Blair.

But does Labour's deputy leader have a bottom line? Could Tony Blair go a modernisation too far The jury is out on that one. According to one MP the underlying concern this week was that Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a grammar school presaged a return to selection. That would have been more than Prescott (like 80 per cent of his age group, an 11plus reject) could stomach.

But what about electoral reform, pacts with the Liberals, major changes to the structure of welfare provision - could Labour's Cooscience live with those? History suggests he could. This week he woh-hled but eventually came round, reminding his colleagues to fight the real enemy at the forthcoming Hemsworth and Staffordshire byelections. Provided he's kept informed, allowed to argue his case and Labour is ahead in the polls Mr Prescott will probably stav onside.

#### An Anti-Blair Alliance?

Opposition to Tony Blair within the Parlia-Opposition to Tony Blair within the Parlia-mentary Labour Party is weak and divided. Diane Abbott, Ronnie Campbell It comes from disparate sources and is BACKGROUND fuelled by widely differing disagreements with The usual suspects: long-standing Blair's approach. However, as John Major has found, politics has become so fluid that temporary affiances between unlikely comrades Pro-Clause IV; increased taxation and pubcan inflict a lot of damage upon e leader. In expenditure: universal benefits for the first time this week, we had a glimpse TROUBLE-MAKING RATING: Will oppose emiser alliance within the party. This is a with Tones. Invariably impotent, but could guide to how it might be made up.

Research: Tiffanie Darke and Ben Summers

#### HARD LEFT

MAIN MEMBERS: Tony Benn, Ken Livingstone Bnan Sedgemore, Jeremy Corbyn,

The usual suspects: long-standing left-wing

on most issues but unlikely to vote be influential if a Blair government has a

#### SOFT LEFT

MAIN MEMBERS: Peter Hain, Roger Beny, Angela Eagle, BACKGROUND

Mainly younger MPs who believe "moderni-Is code for "night-wing". BELIEFS Mixed bag. Some libertanan socialists sceptical of Blair's conservative policies on

family. Critical of centralisation of power in carry conviction by being radical. TROUBLE-MAKING CAPACITY Can cause short-term damage by attacking leadership. founger members likely to be attracted by prospect of ministerial jobs.

Harbour Club. Unlike the

Princess, however, Madonna

does not believe in sharing the

premises with cither Joe Pub-

lic. England rugby captains or

property developers. Last

year, therefore, she rang the

club and asked if it would

close during her stay in Lon-

don, so that she and her

friends could use it exclusively.

"It will be worth your while." she told the manage-

ment, "My name will give you

great publicity." Unsurpris-

refused.

land.

ingly, the Harbour Club

perused this column) the

Princess is game-on to share in

Madonna's plan - perhaps the

club will change its mind. The

sight of the pair of them arriv-

ing together in their Lycra

shorts? What more could the paparazzi want? Perhaps a

shot of Lycra-shorted Tiggy Legge-Bourke, палну to the

young princes, and reportedly

Diana's bete noir, arriving arm

in arm with the Princess ... but

now I'm falling off into fantasy

But imagine if (after she has

#### **OLD RIGHT**

MAIN MEMBERS: Gerald Kaufman, Roy Hattersley, Gerry Steinburg, Gwyneth Dunwoody, Denzil Davies, Austin Mitchell, John Spellar BACKGROUND

Long-standing MPs drawn Into politics just after the Second World War, wedded to Labour's traditional policies on welfare state and economy.

BELIEFS Often anti-European; egalitarian on education; belief in Keynesian interventionism to reflate economy; employment.
TROUBLE-MAKING RATING Feel disgruntled with young modernisers, but unlikely to oppose Blair publicly.

BACKGROUND MPs who distrust Blair because they strongly identify with their constituencies. Proudly anti-trendy. Fear over-intellectualisation of the party. Oppose politically cor-

rect all-women short lists.
TROUBLE-MAKING CAPACITY Disquiet with Blair leadership more about culture than policy form around.

Dennis Canavan, Don Dixon, Peter Snape

ANTI-METROPOLITANS

MAIN MEMBERS:

Richard Cabom

#### SINGLE ISSUE IDEALISTS

Frank Field (welfare) Clive Soley (housing) Kevin McNamara (Northern Ireland) Calum Macdonald (Lib-Lab pacts) Tony Wight (pro-proportional representa-

Tam Dalyell (anti-devolution) BACKGROUND Often maverick MPs with policy expertise combined with moral interest in a single is-

BELIEFS Vary according to issue. TROUBLE-MAKING CAPACITY

#### Mandelson gets in a spin

BBC if John Birt's strictures to the Labour Party to stop trying to spin doctor them into summission had had any effect. "Oh, most definitely," my most senior source told me. "they never try to bully us any more. We've put them in their place."

The next day I sauntered off



to Westminster, glowing with pride in the impartiality of our national broadcasting corporation. And what did I spy? The BBC's Westminster

correspondent, Huw Edwards, being shouted at and. I shudder to say, sworn at by a man who I took to be a violently dis-The other day I asked the gruntled licence fee payer. I

averted my eyes. But the row continued for some time. Wearily I looked a little harder at Edwards's assailant. Imagine my consternation when I discerned him to not as we ... be Peter Mandelson MP, father of spin doctoring and active Following my recent exclusive servant of the Blair cause!

Worse still was the cause of his ire - he was herating Mr Edwards over the BBC's coverage of the Harriet Harman

#### **Red faces** among blues

In case you throught the Inries were having an easy time of it, what with Labour in turmoil over the Harriet Harman bronhaha. I bring tidings of a possible embarrassment to the true blue camp. In December (since when they have kept it very quiet) John Evans, 43, the Tories' prospective parliamentary candidate for Sherwood, was arrested for allegedly stealing a man's coat from a branch of Marks & Spencer in Guildford, Surrey. However, Evans, a former

leader of Hastings Council. was not charged. A police spokesman said: "He has been bailed to return on February 6 when a decision will be made as to whether he is charged."

If he were to be charged, his political position would be in dire straits. But for the moment, Torr Central Office says stoutly: "We don't talk about 'ifs'.

#### Gym life, but

about the new friendship between the Princess of Wales



Fantasy land: Tiggy and Madonna I have fresh news which may cause the two

Madonna is a fan of the

Princess's favourite gym. the

to bond even further.

2.35

**Branson:** 

'Why I lose' What does a tycoon do when

he is stranded in Morocco, waiting for the weather to improve so he can mount his balloon? Richard Branson bas taken up Travet Scrabble very hadly. Anxious, however. not in lose face with his oppo-

oot my game, t was brought up on Monopoly and Risk." That, agreed the backs, explains a

ncots, a succession of Flect

Street's finest, he declared

earnestly the other day: "lt's

#### Howard's way in Ambridge

To the City Livery Club, to celebrate 45 years of fictional rural dwelling on Radio 4 - namely The Archers. There 1 encountered one of the programme's biggest fans, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

He jovially told me that he "skims the Sunday papers in order to settle down to the omnibus edition and coffee (Sunday newspaper editors, please take note).

However, recent listening has caused Mr Howard a certain amount of alarm - he is most concerned by the budding romance between Shula Archer and the abrasive Simon Pemberton. Unable to keep his fears (and perhaps his sense of reality) to himself, on Tuesday night he strode over to the actress Sara Coward (alias Caroline Pemberton). "Congratulations on your marriage to Guy Pemberton." he told her carnestly, adding, "but I think you have to do something about your new stepson, fast.

**Eagle Eye** 

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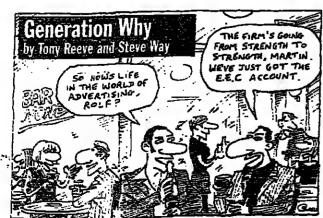
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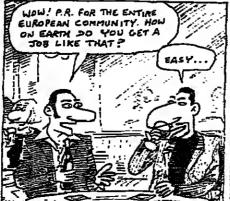
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# Better late than never for EMU

Plans for a single European currency are in serious trouble. Its supporters should ease up or risk the project blowing up in their face.

Even the great Europhiles of the Continent are starting to worry. On Tuesday, Jacques Delors, the former president of the European Commission, admitted he doubted the timetable for European Monetary Union could be met. Yesterday, the former French President Valery Gis-card d'Estaing called for a relaxation of the economic criteria that countries have to meet before the currency can be created. Spain's Foreign Minister. Carlos Westendorp (known at home as "Mister Europe"), called for the deadline of 1999 to be put back, saying that the project was sinking into a "credibility crisis

In response, Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, yesterday speaking at the end of an ill-timed show designed to market the "Euro", rejected a delay.

The trouble for Mr Santer is that the growing doubts about the EMU timetable are unlikely to fade. That is because the Maastricht treaty on monetary union did not anticipate the sharp slowdown in the European economy in the past six months. Only countries that meet strict economic criteria can join the common currency. Most countries already have lower infla-tion than Maastricht demands. But on another key condition even Germany is not doing too well, with a hudget deticit above the 3 per cent of national income that the treaty allows. In France, the prognosis is much gloomier. Slow growth means tax revenues are lower than expected, while public spending remains high to cope with unemployment. German and French efforts to reduce their budget deficits by cutting spending or raising taxes risk slowing their economies

even further, making the problem worse. The political costs of forcing France into

Romeo after sharing a bottle of pop on a

beach, At first sight, she seems to share very

little with the most famous tragic heroine

our culture has produced: Shakespeare's

Juliet. Apart from one thing, that is: 13-

year-old Sarah Cook got married at the age

Shakespeare would not have shared our

bemusement with Sarah Cook's mar-

riage to Musa Komeagae, a waiter. Britain

has been outraged, a sure sign that it is also confused. What were her parents

doing, smiling at the wedding? Why did

they let her do it? The girl must be very

sad, disturbed or misguided, we are told,

she needs saving from herself. A society

hyper-alert to the dangers of child ahuse

is put on guard to protect Sarah Cook

from the exploitation that threatens her.

reacting. Attitudes towards the acceptable age at which we should marry are largely

determined by culture. As people marry

later, partly because of longer life expect-

ancy and extended years of fertility, it

becomes more incomprehensible that

anyone could wish to tie the knot in their

teens, let alone before the age of 16. We

turn a hlind eye to young people having sex at an early age, but we find the idea

nf them marrying young unacceptable

because we do not think they are emo-

We are in serious danger of over-

that Juliet gave her life to Romeo.

Sad tale of a

modern-day Juliet

Sarah Cook makes an unlikely roman-tic heroine. The dumpy girl from Brain-physically and emotionally, much earlier

severe, witness the strikes that crippled much of the country late last year and exposed the frailty of the French ruling slite.

All of this will be music to the ears of British Euro-sceptics. But they would be footish to start celebrating the demise of the Euro prematurely. With an effort, Germany will probably be able to meet the Maastricht criteria by 1999. The fact the Maastricht criteria by 1999. The fact that countries should not unite their cur-

rencies yet under the current Maastricht criteria doesn't mean they shouldn't unite at all. The German mark will still dominate European currency markets regardless of whether there is EMU. In many respects we have already lost a lot of discretion over monetary policy to the Bundesbank. At least a European central bank would set interest rates, taking account of the needs of all EU states, rather than giv-ing Germany priority. The case for a single currency remains strong. But the case for delaying its introduction, perhaps till

2001, has got stronger.

There is an alternative. Delay might be interpreted by the public and the markets as a loss of purpose and direction. Another way out would be to stick with 1999 but relax the Maastricht criteria. Instead of the 3 per cent ceiling on the budget deficit, a broader definition could allow countries with sound economies to borrow more in times of recession. Mr Santer has said he might consider this. The Germans wouldn't be happy, of course, strict economic criteria are essential to persuade the Bundesbank and the German public to

give up their precious mark. But something, somewhere is going to have to give. Monetary union without the French is inconceivable. Yet for France and others to join under the current criteria risks associating EMU with deflation and recession. Political and economic pain could make the Euro untenable, irrevocahly damaging the whole European project. Europe needs to heed its elder the Maastricht strait-jacket are even more statesmen and ease up on EMU.

erations ago. And many young people are

more strident in making their wishes

known and more confident in acting upon

them. These developments are unpalat-

able for those who wish to preserve chil-

hopes that strike a modern chord. He

wished to "let two more summers wither

in their pride, ere we may think her ripe

to be a hride". But his daughter's youth

was not the major obstacle to her alliance

with Romeo. Likewise, it seems Sarah

Cook's marriage in Turkey, although ille-

gal there just as it would be here, is far less

frowned upon than it would be if it had

taken place in Essex. Young marriages are traditional in rural areas of Turkey,

although the earliest allowed is at 14 years

All this suggests Sarah Cook's case should be treated with more sensitivity.

She needs protection in case everything

goes dreadfully wrong and she has to flee

home. But it would be a mistake for her husband to be tried for rape given that all

parties, including the two families, con-

sented to the marriage. Equally, talk of

placing Sarah in a children's home is

heavy-handed and legalistic. Whatever the

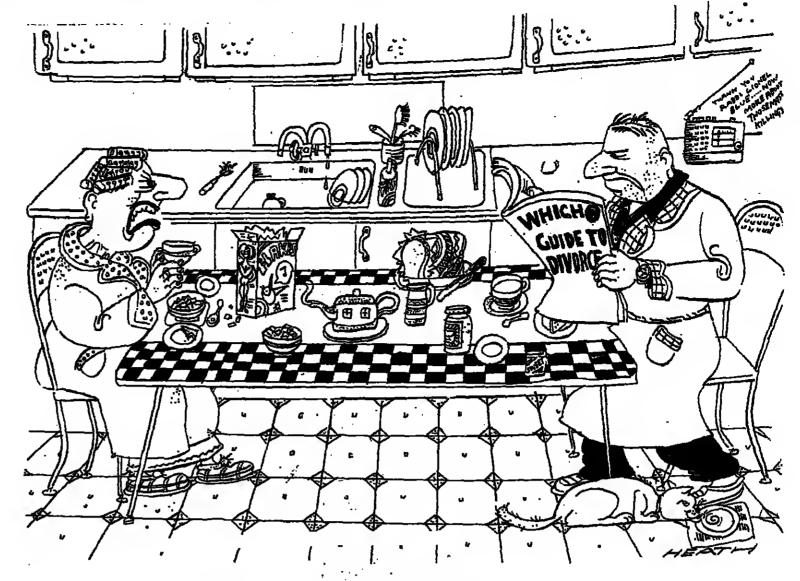
imperfections of her life in Turkey, coun-

cil care is no solution. Indeed, it may be

and then only with special permission.

It is true that Juliet's father revealed

dren in the image of their own youth.



'Must you always read at the breakfast table?'

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Labour politicians' comprehensive history of selection

From Mr Ronnie Landau

Sir: Does no one remember that the former leader of the Labour Party (shortly afterwards to be Prime Minister) Harold Wilson, trailblazing pioneer of compre-hensive education and head of a party still wedded uncompro-misingly to ideological "old" socialism, openly sent his two sons to one of north-west London's leading independent day schools (yes, fee-paying - he even shunned the local grammar schools)?

1 do not remember Wilson, or other socialists who did likewise, being roundly condemned by his party, by the media or by holierthan-thou Tory opportunists, On the contrary, it was recognised then - as I believe it should be now - that, while unity of theory and practice may be generally desirable, not every personal decision taken (even hy a politician) is necessarily a political Labour Party candidate. We Labour Party does the hrightest one. There are some actions one argued for comprehensive 5 per cent of our children, and the takes as a parent that can be schools, hoping to improve every-

'parental" nature. What has changed in the intervening three decades is the cancerous growth of an increasingly amoral, ohsessive and vindictive press - tabloid and broadsheet -

Yours faithfully, R. S. LANDAU London, N12 23 January

Notes about

airport food

From Mr Egon Ronay Sir: In the context of my having

condemned three foreign air-

ports in comparison with

Heathrow, Simon Calder (Travel column, 20 January), mentioned

that I have been working for four years for BAA on improving the standard of food (in 130

My integrity has never been doubted and, on my comparative visits to Schiphol, De Gaulle, 23 January

From Mr T. H. Hockton Sir: Voters may not indeed share the faith of unreconstructed "old Labour or "old Lib Dem"

activists (leading article, 22 January). Not all of these have been responsible for their own children. Some are lucky where they live. Others are like the sectarians whose faith bans radical treatment for their children. In 16 years, Tory governments

have done little to reduce the gap between private and general education. It is naive to argue that, if all educated and articulate people send their own children to the nearest local school, it can improve quickly enough to benefit them.

After 35 years of secondary school teaching, 1 retired as head of a comprehensive school, then taking 360 boys and girls each year. As a young man, I fought two parliamentary elections as a practical experience and appreciation of the human and material resources needed.

It was disappointing hut we should not despair. With our support, realists such as Tony which, in its hunger for "celehrity" blood, resembles nothing so closely as it does a make progress — providing they are not too hampered by the complexes of their old-fashioned evangelicals. Yours faithfully, TOM HOCKTON Hove, East Sussex

Frankfurt and Heathrow airports,

a member of my special airports

inspection team and an indepen-

dent representative of the Press

Association both took detailed

notes of every tasting of some 200

completely concurred with our

findings. Our separate notes are

available for examination and

they would put Mr Calder's mind

The Press Association's mar

food items.

at rest.

Yours faithfully

EGON RONAY London, SW3

From Mr John Charman Sir: Perhaps Labour MPs and

other activists could take time off from criticising Harriet Harman and explain to me why, if selection is wrong for schools, is it all right for universities? I suspect the answer is that the

Labour party accepts that a selection policy for universities is a sensible one, both for the people that are selected and for the country, because to do otherwise would result in a dilution of academic quality and a general low-ering of standards. In not applying the same criteria to schools. could it be that the Labour Party policy for schools is driven by "Old Labour" dogma rather than

what is best for the country? Like it or not, selection and choice are involved all through life and, in trying to pretend otherwise by abolishing selection for secondary education, the country as a whole, a grave dis-

Yours sincerely, JOHN CHARMAN London, SW1 23 January

From Mr Peter Bradbury Sir: I do wish Labour MPs, indeed all MPs, could come to accept that education is more than O and A levels and the complex of academic excellence that underpins them, vital as that is for

the life of any school. Perhaps of equal importance in

#### Stakeholder precedents our socially divided society is the effect that a comprehensive edu-cation can have on children from the professional and middle From Dr Michael de Podesta Sir: 1 have been surprised that, in the debate on the concrete meaning of the term "stakeholder", little attention has been drawn to classes, the acquired ability to mix easily with children from all

classes and, incidentally, of both sexes, to understand different values and motivations. A third aspect is the contribution which such parents can make to the life of the comprehensive school by taking part in the offi-cial and unofficial channels which exist to improve standards and maintain the morale of hard-

pressed teachers and governors. Perhaps it is too early to speak of a trahison des clercs, but my mind is certainly running in that direction.

PETER BRADBURY East Bergholt, Essex 22 January The writer was a divisional education officer in the Inner London Education Authority, 1970-81

From Mr David Robinson Sir: Harriet Harman had the choice of a variety of schools for her son. I must take issue with the perception that the school with 1 per cent of pupils obtaining five good GCSEs is a failing school and that the grammar school with a 99 per cent pass rate is a successful one. Until we are able sensibly to measure value added, the reality will not be evident. Yours sincerely. DAVID ROBINSON

EU decision on

Euro campaign

From Mr Geoffrey Martin

'Euro'", 23 January).

Sir. It is not the case that the

British government has blocked

the European Commission from

extending a single currency cam-

paign to this country ("Britain

hars publicity campaign for

I and my colleagues have

stated publicly that an advertis-

ing or propaganda campaign

would be counter-productive, not

least because the British Parlia-

ment has still to decide whether

the UK will join the single cur-

rency. However, if people or

organisations wish to find out more about the issue, whether

here or in other member states.

it is only right they should be able to do that and we will provide them with the necessary facts.

This is a position with which

the President of the Commission

entirely concurs. It may be that,

for its own purposes, the Gov-

erument wishes to propagate the view that it took the decision or

was somehow able to "block" the

Commission, but that is simply

not the case.

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY MARTIN

Head of Representation

in the United Kingdom

The European Commission Loudon, SW1

capitalism. Sincerely, MICHAEL DE PODESTA Birkbeck College University of London London, WC1 22 January

From Mr Larry McLean Sir. The "stakeholder society" is what we Liberal Democrats have been advocating for at least 60 years. Remember the Yellow Book of the 1920s, calling for all employees (and I stress all) to have a stake in the business they work for?

the relevance of developments in the ownership of huilding soci-

eties. The mutual structure of

huilding societies made stake-holders of both staff and cus-

tomers, investors and borrowers.
At the instant at which the soci-

eties are privatised, this stake-

holding is preserved since the institution is still owned by its staff and customers. However, as

share ownership by customers becomes diluted over the years.

it becomes in the interests of ex-

members wearing a shareholding hat to seek higher returns on

their "investment". Building societies are (or were)

examples of how stakeholding could exist in a real complex

world. However, the destruction

of mutuality by get-rich-quick

merchants at the head of the societies shows how delicate mutual

must be protected by law. Share

ownership - unless restricted to

customers and staff - is not

stakeholding: it's just plain old

structures are, and how they

Papal encyclicals support this policy, especially Pacem in Terris, Quadragesimo Anno and Guudem et Spes. The new catechism of the Catholic Church supports the concept of profit-sharing and co-operation between owners

and workers. I write as an investor in industrial equity shares, but I would willingly forgo some of my divi-dends if it would bring peace and stability in our industries. Yours sincerely, LARRY MCLEAN

Wolverhampton 19 January

#### Biblical hypocrisy

From Dr James Carleton Paget Sir; In her present plight, it may comfort Harriet Harman to know that no less a man than St Paul accused St Peter of hypocrisy (Galatians 2.13 and 14). The latter survived the aspersions of the former and became, according to Christian tradition at least, the first Christian Pope. Yours sincerely, JAMES CARLETON PAGET

Cambridge

#### Oedipal rage

From Mr George MacDonald

Ross

Sir. The earliest recorded example of road rage ("Half all drivers are targets of road rage", 24 January) was surely when Oedipus killed his father in an argument over who had priority to drive his chariot over a narrow bridge. Perhaps ancient Greek priority, signs were as confusing as ours? Yours faithfully, GEORGE MACDONALD ROSS

\* \* #

#### tionally ready for such a commitment. the worst possible place for her. It's opera, boyo - rugby with music

The other day I suggested it did I not really matter whether the Welsh huilt a new opera house or a rughy stadium, as there was not much difference between rughy and opera, especially the way the Welsh play both. I am saddened to say that people have written in from as far as Wales to protest, and I have even heen piltoried in the Welsh Local Government Corruption News.

Well, gentlemen, I aim to prove you wrong by bringing you an extract from an opera I am working on. It is the first-ever opera written about rugby, and it is called Tristan und Gareth. It tells the tragic story of two friends. Tristan and Gareth, who grow up together in the Welsh valleys, attend the same school and aim to play side by side in the Welsh National XV, until cruel Fate intervenes to separate them ...

But you will get a better idea from a dip into the libretto. The first act shows the two boys coming to Cardiff as players in the Welsh Schools XV. which beats the English Schoolboys 15-9 (five penalties to three, no tries). In the second scene, Tristan and Gareth celebrate the victory by going out for the evening in Cardiff. Here they are, outside the Scrum Half's Arms in Pontnewydd Street.



Tristan: Well, Gareth, that was a famous victory and no mistake! Gareth: Was it? But it only happened this afternoon. How can it he famous already?

Tristan: No. what 1 meant was ... well, never mind.

Gareth: You were always the clever one with words, Tristan. That's why you won the Dylan Thomas School prize for a rugby essay, on life as

Tristan: Ah, yes. "Hark! It is dark in the scrum, here in the dumb, boot-lined scrum, where feet rummage in the scrummage for the fall of the ball ...

Gareth: Yes, yes, thanks very much. I've heard it all before, but there's more to life than culture. Tristan: 1s there? Like what? Gareth: Like drinking after the match. (He sings.)

When the final whistle blows. When it's time to end the game, When you shake hands with your

catering outlets).

foes, Then you always do the same -In the shower and out again, Neatly dressed and in the har. Downing pints of bitter Brain® To show them what a man you are. A game of rugby, win or lose. Will leave you swaying but

upright; Eighty minutes on the booze Will leave you flat out, tight. Rugby players may come and go. You may even change your club, But there's one thing we all know After the game, it's down the

\*Brain's is an excellent Welsh beer, not much seen in England. - Librettist's

Tristan: You're disgusting, you are. I didn't come into rugby to drink beer and sing songs. Gareth: Then what did you come

into rugby for, boyo? To best England? To get the Grand Slam? Wake up, Tristan! Rugby is the quick route to oblivion! Tristan: How do you mean?

Gareth: There are two paths to oblivion in rugby - one is to fail to catch the selectors' eve and the

other is to drink yourself silly. 1 know which I'd choose. (He sings.) Oh, once we had A great Welsh side. And Max Boyce joked About them with pride.

Yes, poor Max Bovce Went on and on About Phil Bennett And Barry John But now that both are a memory And Wales can barely Beat Italy,

Max Boyce is left without an act. And that's how Welsh Comedians get sacked! (Exit singing. Tristan is about to follow him when he is accosted by a young girl. J

Girl: Tristan! You looking for a good time? Tristan: Well, 1 don't know ... How

do you mean? Girl: A trip up north! Three-year contract! Rugby League! Car, house and all the black puddings you can eat! Tristan: Gosh! It certainly sounds tempting ...

Will he fall for it and lose his virtue? Find out into tomorrow's thrilling

#### No poverty of ideas here. Delia

From Ms Betty Cairns Sir: If Delia Smith follows Louise Levene's advice (17 January) and produces a basic cookery book for people with little knowledge or ash, she will be in very illustrious

"cooking" company indeed. Both Fracatelli, Queen Victoria's chef, and the great Alexis Soyer of the Reform Club produced just such cookery books, giving advice on utensils and cheap nourishing dishes. The emphasis was very much on soups and various "puddings" to eat with meat and fish, and the recipes were geared to large poor Victorian families. Soyer's Shilling Cookery Book for the Artisan sold 264,000 copies in 13 years, a vast sale for those days. Soyer also produced a Charitable Cookery book for use by those running soup kitchens, several of

which Soyer funded himself. Possibly our current cookery icons may care to consider Soyer's comment, in his op Cookery Regenerator (all profits to the Irish famine fund)

it requires more science to produce a good dish at a trifling expense than a superior one with unlimited means. Yours sincerely, BETTY CAIRNS

London, N22

#### Below the salt

From Mr David Glover Sir: Once again we read of yet another totally wrong-headed Tory policy. f refer, of course, to John Major's views on putting the salt on chips after the vinegar ("Is the party over for Maggie's kids?", 17 January). The application of condiments in this way would cause the salt to stick in the vinegar on the top layer of chips only. Leicester

Anyone even slightly to the test-of-centre would apply the vinegar last, thus allowing it to wash the salt through to the underlying layers of chips, resulting in a more equal distribution.
It would seem that even Tory

policy regarding chips is designed to benefit the few at the expense of the many. Yours faithfully, DAVID GLOVER

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: O171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

# New focus, same crisis

Irish peace looks as elusive as ever, despite yesterday's Mitchell report, argues David McKittrick

Ancient Greek dramas would sometimes culminate in the appearance of a deus ex machina, a god lowered on to the stage by means of a crane, who would use supernatural powers to sort out the muddles created by mortals.

On one reading, that was the role played in Belfast yesterday by the former US senator George Mitchell, when he delivered his international body's report on arms decommissioning. For some hours, it seemed the logiam might be easing, until John Major's announcement of plans for a local election sent tensions ris-

mg again. Mr Mitchell is no magicmaker. As he said at the outset of his report, the factors on which a peace process must be based were already known. He did not discover or invent some new element to transform the situation; he simply brought to the problem a measure of American can-do pragmatism.

In that sense, his role was less one of divine intervention than empirical observation, followed by practical suggestions and comment.

He eased the British gov-ernment off the hook of its long-standing insistence that republicans deliver up arms before being allowed to the table. He did so simply by pointing out that there was no chance of the IRA or the loyalists decommissioning weapons in advance of talks.

The dogs in the streets of Belfast and Dublin already knew that, but the fact of Mr Mitcbell saying it has somehow made it more acceptable - or at least tolerable. The same dogs already appreciated the other facts laid out in the Mitchell report, yet somehow he and his two colleagues bave clarified many points, made them easier to digest and separated off what is politically possible from what is not

None of this is accidental, for it is apparent, both from the report itself and from his performance at his news conference, that Mr Mitcbell is a class act. With grace and humour, he showed himself to be the most skilful political performer seen in Belfast since - well, since last month, when his friend Bill Clinton was in town.



The Mitchell principles don't mention a 'permanent' ceasefire, but would mean a complete farewell to arms Brian Harris

The British and Irish governments, when they agreed to set up the international body back in November, gave it what seemed a fairly narrow remit. asking for a report on decommissioning. What they got was a report that represents an overview of almost the entire spectrum of the immediate

The international body clearly took as its starting point not the essentially technical issue of decommissioning but the much broader approach of working out how to advance the peace process. It first concluded that no guns were going to be forthcoming in the immediate future, and then moved principles to which all parties should be required to subscribe.

The IRA, it will be remembered, declared a "complete cessation of military opera-tions" in August 1994 hut has always declined to use the word "permanent" in relation to its ceasefire. That word does not appear in the six Mitchell principles, but together these would represent a complete farewell to arms. The deal is that if the IRA insists on not handing over weapons it must instead make a solemn promise to the world that the shadow of the gunman has gone.

Though brief, the report contains mentions of (though not ments of the Ulster Unionists.

on to draft a list of democratic recommendations on) matters such as the prisoners' issue, the use of plastic bullets, the idea of a review of more than 100,000 legally beld weapons, and the predominantly Protestant make-up of the RUC. It also mentions "an elective

process"-much to the relief of

Mr Major, who bad been bank-

ing on that. The British government bad already done much work on the idea, and Mr Major yesterday spoke of urgently putting legislation through Parliament. The attractions of an election for the Government are obvious, mainly because it will go a fair way to meeting the require-

The Government's enthusiasm arises mainly from the fact that the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, had expressed his opinion that an election would give Sinn Fein a mandate that would allow him to talk to them, even without the decommissioning of weapons.

This opened up the possibility of inter-party talks without an arms band-over, a route the Government bas gratefully taken, Mr Trimble bad envisaged an election to a new assembly, but in the Commons yesterday Mr Major seemed to envisage an election of negotiators rather than a plan to set up a devolved institution along parliamentary lines.

This distinction is crucial. Previous assemblies, the longest-lived of which was the Stormont parliament from 1921 until 1972, are still seared into Irish nationalist folk-memory as bastions of Unionist privilege and anti-Catholic discrimination. It is oo exaggeration to say that a return to anything rem-iniscent of this would cause large numbers of republican supporters to contemplate going back to war.

Sinn Fein had a good morn-ing yesterday with the launch of the Mitchell document, but a bad afternoon when John Major lifted the election idea from the obscurity of the

report's penultimate page.
But it has now been elevated to the centrepiece of the peace process, where it is destined to remain for some time yet. Even with the promise of Labour support, it will clearly take months for the election idea to be discussed and make its way on to the statute book. and for voters to go to the polls.

This means the abandonment of the present target date for all-party talks to open at the end of next month. Mr Trimhle's evident pleasure at the Government's action bas also inflamed the suspicion - never far from the surface of the nationalist psyche - that Mr Major's new course was at least partly motivated by the hope of securing Unionist support in the Commons lobbies.

Whatever the truth of this, Sinn Fein find that, 16 months on from the IRA ceasefire, the doors of the conference chamber remain closed to them. The ominous importance of this is tbat they have elevated the question of all-party talks almost to a point of principle, reassuring their hard men that they would soon get to the table.

Thus a day that began with what looked like a breakthrough ended in something close to crisis, with no easing of the long build-up of frustration within the republican movement. The Mitchell report mentioned the lack of trust in Northern Ireland: the day ended with less trust than ever, and a sense that resolving the election controversy might need the appearance of yet

# Let us delay full talks no longer

The clearest single message from the report by the international body on decommis-sioning is that we must banish fear and rebuild trust and confidence. At each stage of the peace process trust has been more important than any particular issue: apparently insolu-hle problems with words like "permanent" and "clarification" bave been solved. The ceasefires themselves - which most people thought unachievable were achieved because trust had been built.

Senator Mitchell and his colleagues have touched the very heart of the problem when they say that the decommissioning issue is merely a symptom of the absence of trust. My bone is that both governments and all parties will see in the report a clear opportunity to make up the ground that has been lost and to move towards inclusive

all-party talks.
I have always held that decommissioning before talks was unacceptable. Perhaps more pertinently, I have always felt it was unobtainable. And it was never agreed or accepted that it would be a precondition

for the starting of talks.

That said, the suggestion in the report that some forms of decommissioning could take place by agreement as part of the talks process would be a valuable confidence-building measure, which could prove the bina fides of all parties concerned and speed the process of rebuilding trust. Only with a resumption of dialogue will that happen.

My view on the need for inclusive dialogue has always been direct and uncluttered: while dialogue is taking place there can be no excuse in any quarter for a return to violence or killing; the report endorses this view in the clearest terms.

Looking on in recent months, my single greatest fear has been that the delay, the inactivity and the vacuum created would out an upnecessary strain on an already strained process. We have seen peace being jeopardised; we bave seen pragmatism being replaced by dogmatism and the result has been disquieting.

The spectre of violence has begun to creep back in. And such a discouraging trend can only go in one direction if it is not stopped. A return to the Ireland, 1992-1994.



ALBERT REYNOLDS

table and a resumption of real dialogue is the only way to pre-vent the ugly possibility of a return to violence and to work out a just and lasting settlement in a totally democratic and exclusively peaceful manner.
The commission's report points out everything in that direction and no other.

If any side sees in the recommendations further cause for stalling, sees them as another obstacle, then a serious question must hang over their commitment to finding a solution. One thing I know in my heart

is that people throughout Ire-land and Britain want a continuation of the normal life they are now enjoying - normal life which was absent for 25 years. I know that people never want to see a return to killing, maining and sorrow. And nobody will thank or respect either government or any party - if they allow sur-mountable difficulties to threaten peace. Nobody could expect all their views to prevail in this report, and that hasn't bappened. All sides must expect to compromise and to leave behind past historical positions in order to create the environment for all-party talks. I believe there is sufficient bere for both governments and all sides to go along with. And I would deplote any attempt to substitute onc precondition with another. which appears to be the present position of the British government. Of course, an elected assembly can be on the agendu for debate at all-party talks.

The steps to peace were enshrined in the Downing Street declaration when we spoke about achieving peace, stability and reconciliation through a process of dialogue and cooperation. We need a return to the trust which brought about that focus and clarity. It is time to start the inclusive dialogue with everything on the table and everybody at the table.

The writer was prime minister of

The furore over Harriet Harman's choice of school for her son has exposed the lack of realism prevalent in Labour's education policy

# The legacy of the war of Little Joe

The five worst days in Tony Blair's leadership of the Labour Party ended yesterday with what was, by all accounts, a sparkling speech to his seething parliamentary party. As they spilled out into the Commons corridor, their faces were not happy and their private views about Harriet Harman were unchanged; hut almost every lip was buttoned. The War of Little Joe seemed over.

Even if that is so, bowever, it has ended with a bloody pyrrhic victory for the leadership. The damage has been serious and will reverberate throughout the year. Labour's poll rating will surely slip at an important moment. When the general election comes, my guess is that Labour candidates will lose seats they might otherwise bave won because of this.

The gap between old and new Labour bas widened. Despite Blair's buge personal authority, he cannot afford many more episodes like this. When be demands self-sacrifice in the cause of victory, there will be resentful mutterings about his own front bench. Joe Harman's education may be free at point of use; but it will cost the Labour Party quite a hit.

Choice in schooling is not like European monetary union, nor the West Lothian question, or most other bits of political arcana. It has chat-power. It is something that everyone can understand and that many people are emotional about.

lights and

volidays to

HO WOO

Some voters will turn against Labour, oot because of the charge that the Harman family has been bypocritical, but because the reaction of Labour MPs bas chilled them a little. It suggests to some that the old Labour Party, so enthusiastic about stopping people doing things, determined to huild a better world on a mound of prohibitions, is back. Certainly, the rage of many Labour MPs about Harman's choice has not been pretty. Too many have made it clear that they think she is a selfish middie-class southern woman of a kind that should be expropriated and preferably extirpated, too. As one senior figure put it: "I wouldn't p\*\*\* on ber if she was on fire." This is not, to put it mildly, the way to woo Middle Britain.

Other voters, though probably fewer, will turn away from Labour because of the charge that Harman is a hypocrite. I think she is. But I think she is no more of a hypocrite than Andrew Marr - or even, just possibly, the average reader of this column.

Daily life is an endless series of compromises between the world as it is and the world as we would like it to be. For anyone with principles, hypocrisy is a universal sin. We sit snugly in our cars whining about poliution and congestion. We complain about underfunded this or that but



#### ANDREW MARR

do not offer the voluntary extra taxes that smiling Conservatives remind us the Treasury would accept. We prefer not to know ton much about the short lives of the ani-

mais we eat. Oh yes, and many of us praise the virtues of comprehensive education while avoiding the nearest comprehensive for our children. If I was living where Harman lives and had a child who got a place at St Olave's, I would jump at the chance. But then, as the picture byline will confirm, I am not Harman. Doesn't the fact of her being a Labour front-bencher change

things? Doesn't it make things worse? She is not enjoying a privilege for her own family that she would take away from other people's if she got into power. St Olave's would almost certainly still exist as

#### Labour's rage at Harman has not been pretty

a selective grammar school after a decade of Labour government because, despite David Blunkett's "read my lips" denunciation of selection at the party conference, the party has decided to keep selective grammar schools where that is what the local voters want.

Harman's hypocrisy certainly is not of that gold-plated, triple-A variety. The problem is rather that Labour MPs maintain that selection is bad for everyone and that comprehensives are good - not just for society, but for all children. And the Harman-Dromeys, like many other parents, clearly do not believe it. There is a gap, in short, between Labour policy and the prejudices of millions of people. The problem for the pro-comprehensive majority in the Labour Party is that it cannot achieve its stated aim. It will not take on the vocal power of the grammar school lobby. And cannot take on the private schools because Britain subscribes to international obligations setting out the right to choose an independent education.

So enough of the middle classes exclude themselves, paying through private school fees or higher mortgages to ensure that

"comprehensives" are really "partials", particularly in the inner cities. Labour is well aware of this but has no plausible answer. Moral exhortation is useless. If Labour MPs will not be exhorted, precious few other people will feel any ohligation. Labour hopes that extra spending and a change in ethos will improve the state schools. Which is fine; except that it will

not promise extra spending.

The Conservatives gleefully claim it all as a vindication of their school reforms. But the truth is that government policy is equally muddled. For most parents, the "cboice" at the core of Tory policy is a big lie. Selection of pupils by schools and the tough squeeze on extra places are destroy-ing what little choice is left in the system. The Tories bave become the defenders of socially divided education without actually having the courage to say so. Conserv-

ative MPs claim their intention is to create "excellent" state schools, yet few would dream of sending their children to them. The disastrous truth which the Harman case should ram home to every thinking voter is that with both big parties proclaiming education to be their priority and the election lonming, neither bas a plausible or intellectually credible policy for state

In defending Harman, Blair acted characteristically by putting his own position so publicly on the line. He is loyal to his friends and self-certain to the point of rashness. Now, though, he needs to move on from defending a friend to rethinking the policy. In a few days' time be is due to make a major speech on social issues. He should rip it up and try, instead, a speech which confronts bonestly and thoughtfully the

real dilemmas of schooling in Britain. If so, he could and should give indications of alternative ways forward. There are some. A voucher system, for instance, could be beavily biased in favour of lowincome families so that the daughter of a single parent on welfare would get a voucher worth, say, five times as much as a middle-class child. This would blur the gnarled and class-bound lines which scar British education, and state funding would flow to where it was needed most. Schools in deprived areas or specialising in lower achievers would be able to afford to buy

m specialist teachers on high salaries. This episode has been too bad for Labour to talk of silver linings. For the party there are none; during the past few days all its old vices have been on show. But if he encouraged Blair to think again about schools, the rest of us could yet have cause to raise a glass to Little Joe, whose politician parents behaved like parents - and not like politicians.



Labour Photograph: Hulton Deutsch

struggle: education is turning into a litmus test for new

The true hypocrisy over selection in schools does not lie in Harriet Harman's torn maternal beart; it lies at the heart of Labour's education policy. The bypocrisy lies in the fact that the not-yetmodernised Blairite party professes to believe in an aspirational, meritocratic society, while remaining bound by its ankles to discredited comprehensive ideal.

Comprehensive schooling is the ideal form in a liberal democracy. The benefits for mutual understanding, for social cohesion, for not splitting the community into antagonistic bands of privilege and resentment, are ringingly obvious. Moreover, comprehensive schools should in principle be more able to respond to the varied talents that make up every individual.

The problem is that in practice it doesn't work. It doesn't work widely and well enough for any modern political party to

sell it as a panacea.

I am as emotionally bound up in the comprehensive ideal as anyone in my comprehensively educated generation. I was proud to belong to that first band of kids who were oot artificially separated into a small group of academically able and the less able remainder. But what I actually learnt, academically, was disgracefully poorer than it should have been. I succeeded, in the end, in spite of it. And I was not failed by individual teachers - my teachers were, in several fondly remembered cases, superhuman. It was the ideal that failed because it expected them all to be superbuman.

My generation are today's parents of young children, for whom the Harman dilemma is an urgent, defining issue for the politics of the Nineties. And if new Labour does oot tackle that, bonestly and openly, it will not deserve the appellation "new"

The problem is that the long and divisive course of our 30-year comprehensive experiment has shown that most schools cannot live up to the egalitarian dream. The best do. Good comprehensives are wonderful, inspiring institutions: but they are in a minority, and we cannot rest our bopes for the future on the fantasy that somehow the rest can be brought up to that high standard by wishful thinking.

Why have comprehensives failed? The answer lies in the impossibility of their ambition. My father fought hard as a politician during the Sixties and Seventies to bring about the introduction of comprehensive schools because he (as a onenation, grammar school-educated Tory) believed that the separation of children at the age of II into sheep and goats created a terrible social chasm. Moreover, be believed that less able children would gain from mixing with academically and socially aspirant children. But be never thought children should all be bundled together as one: he knew that comprebensives would not work unless teachers differentiated among pupils within them.

#### Labour should stop incanting a flawed ideal

He was right. Comprehensive schooling does provide children with a broader social experience, and sometimes talent rubs off. But, face it, mostly it didn't work out like that. The parental and pupil culture in the overwhelming majority of state schools today is anti-aspirational. Instead of most pupils being lifted to the ambitions of the best, the best pupils come under heavy social pressure to scale their efforts down to the ambitions of the average.

If steering children with different apti-

tudes into different schools were as a matter of course socially divisive and educationally destructive, why is it that Germany is more socially cobesive, has a narrower range of wealth, is less politically divided and consistently outstrips Britain's educa-tional performance? The Germans separate children (albeit at a later age), as do the French. But they don't separate them down one tunnel that says "Clever" and another that says "Stupid", on the basis of a one-off test. They separate them into academically able, and technically able, and able at all kinds of other things, by assessing them carefully throughout their schooling years. And children move between one

school and another: they are not condemned, as many post-war Britons were.

to a second-rate secondary modern. Tragically, in Britain, the 11-plus still defines the argument because we are so desperate to escape its haunting apparition. But it does not have to be like that Labour should stop incanting a flawed ideal and think radically about how to reinvent state schooling. In so doing, Tony Blaineeds to win education professionals, as well as parents, to a new approach.

What is the real objective? Surely it must be to create a schooling system that can mee: the diverse expectations of a diverse population. We need schools of many kinds, not just one comprehensive kind, or two selec-tive kinds. In large urban areas, where children can easily travel to a variety of schools. it is surely good to encourage differences. One school might have a particular religious orientation; another might have a famous ar: department on which it lavishes resources: another might be superbly technically

endowed. None of this undermines quality And in less densely populated areas. where parents in practice have a choice between one or two schools, selection is possible within schools: children can be grouped according to aptitude, enthusiasm. effort and commitment.

Some comprehensive schools do stream. by form, or subject, or both. But many more are too trapped in the mixed ability mind-set to contemplate a different approach. They need to let go of their old verities and look at the inspectors' and academics' evidence that has mounted over many years in favour of grouping pupils by ability, or by their willingness to learn.

It is no accident that so much fuss has been made about Ms Harman's decision: education is the new Labour litmus test. Is Mr Blair going to create an ambitious, striving, achieving society, eager and entbusiastic to learn? Or is he going to retrenct the pointless argument that bas distracted us for far too long?

**COLIN HUGHES** 

The writer is former education editor of the 'Independent'



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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# Bradford & Bingley triggers mortgage war

Building societies yesterday began hoisting defences against hostile takeover bids as the Bradford & Bingley cut mortgages rates and raised the return to savers. The Nationwide promised to follow suit within weeks.

Bradford & Bingley, the fifthlargest huilding society, cut the cost of its home loans to a new low of 7.24 per cent.

The society's bonus to its 1.9 million members, including a pledge of better savings rates, sparked expectations of a fresh mortgage price war with other

Its move prompted Nationwide, the targest society after Halifax, to say that it too would introduce a "loyalty" package for its 8 million members.

Brian Davis, chief executive at Nationwide, said of his own society's plans: "We will know where we stand by our year-end in April. That will be the time for us to introduce any appropriate changes.

"We have been working carefully, trying to make sure that our capital reserves were sound hetore making a decision." He added that Nationwide planned to remain competitive as far as mortgage rates were concerned. John Wriglesworth, director

ing societies that opt for plc status are making a one-way decision to sell off the family silver. This will leave their customers eating off paper plates in the future. We are giv-

seeable future." However, Halifax and Abbey National, who have led earlier mortgage-cutting moves, said vesterday they were not planning to follow Bradford & Bin-

ing them silverware, china and

the best cuisine for the fore-

gley's example yet.
Bradford & Bingley's givehack, expected to reduce its profits by £50m a year, cuts the

cost of an average £50,000
mortgage by about £10 a month.
Over a typical 25-year loan
period, an interest-only borrower would save £2,800. Over five years, new and existing borrowers will pay about £550 less. The new rates take effect on 1 March.

Savers will also benefit by the society's pledge to keep rates at an average of 0.25 per cent more than its key competitors. "This announcement demon-

strates the benefits of mutuality in action," Geoffrey Lister, chief executive of the society, said.

Yorkshire Building Society, which offered a similar package

of strategy at Bradford & Bin-gley, said: "We think that build-tober, and Britannia, about to tober, and Britannia, about to launch its own loyalty bonuses. welcomed Bradford & Bingley's move. Its decision follows a series of takeovers and mergers of

building societies.
Cheltenham & Gloucester and National & Provincial have been taken over by banks.

Last year, Halifax and Leeds Permanent merged and will de-mutualise in April 1997. Woolwich plans to follow suit shortly after that. An an-nouncement from Alliance &

Leicester is imminent. Mr Wriglesworth said: "In the 1990s, we had better rates than the hanks but we also had to face the fact that the housing market had collapsed. We needed to huild up our re-serves and have been doing so for the last five years. We can now give back some of our profits. We had planned a complicated system based on longterm loyalty bonuses, hut some of our members said to us that they might be dead by then." Rob Thomas, building soci-

ety analyst at UBS, the Swiss banking group, said: "Having ar-gued for a long time that soci-cties that wanted to stay mutual needed to do something like this, I am not surprised by such a move. I can see this gaining momentum in bits and bobs."



Testing the waters: Brien Davis (left) of Nationwide and Geoffrey Lister, chief executive, of Bradford & Bingley

## Jobs to be axed in Cockburn's shake-up for WH Smith

**NIGEL COPE** 

WH Smith's new chief executive. Bill Cockburn, pledged yesterday to shake up the company's sleepy, under-achieving culture in a series of moves that could involve large-scale redundancies at the beleaguered retailer. Announcing a slump in half-

year profits from £45m to £17m. Mr Cockburn criticised poor and complacent", he said:

cost control and weak accountability, saying the company needed to hit targets and budgets "rather than conjuring up excuses for missing them". He said that the profit per-

formance was "unsatisfactory" and warned that second-half profits were unlikely to exceed last year's £70m. Describing the company's culture as "cosy

"Sometimes you get that in old mature businesses that think they have a God-given right to survive." Mr Cockburn declined to give details on possible job cuts but said: "If that's what's necessary, that's what will be done." WH Smith has 23,000 workers world-wide, of whom around 20,000 are in the UK.

WH Smith from the Royal Mail

name and to be more pro-active. It should be able to take advantage of the collapse of the Net Book Agreement, which used to govern book prices. The group has increased book sales by 9 per cent since the end of

Analysts praised Mr Cock-

at the beginning of the year, said hurn's sentiments but said he bewanted the group to capitalise on the strength of its hrand at Do It All, the group's DIY at Do It All, the group's DIY
joint venture with Boots, which recorded a loss of £7.7m in the six months to 2 December and sales 3.2 per cent lower than the same period last year.

Mr Cockburn refused to be drawn on details ahead of his strategic review, which will not

WH Smith's profits for the six months to December were down from £45m to £17m. Sales rose from £1.2bn to £1.3bn.

Operating profits at the core WH Smith chain fell from £26m to £12m. partly due to previously announced provisions. The chain has struggled against competition from the specialist music and booksellers and the be completed until the spring, supermarkets, Like-for-like

sales were 2.6 per cent higher. Profits at Waterstones, the bookseller, improved from £3m to £5m while Virgin Our Price, the music and video chain that

makes most profit in the second half, reported profits of £1.6m. compared with a loss of £800,000 last year. The interim dividend was maintained at 5.25p. The shares were unchanged at 407p. Investment Column, page 18

#### Holiday blushes for tour operator

DAVID HELLIER and JOHN SHEPHERD

Inspirations, the tour operator that only two weeks ago posted record profits of £7.7m. found itself in an embarrassing situation vesterday over a letter written to its Cypriot hoteliers that spells out reasons for pay-

ments delays.

The letter, which appears to have been signed by the finance director of the tour operating. subsidiary. Steve Keay, explains that payments problems have occurred for several reasons, including an accounting problem.

The letter describes the problems caused by poor trading conditions in the industry, aircraft leasing payments which have to be paid in order to ensure the continued expansion of the company's holiday programme, and disappointing early bookings for 1996.

The letter concludes: "If you are one of the Hoteliers or Apartment owners which has an amount of money outstanding from unpaid invoices we do apologise ... we would ask you to bear with us over the next few months and wish to assure you that everything possible is being done to improve this situation."

The letter continued: "many in the travel industry have described the 1995 trading year as heing one of the worst on record. The public's demand for holidays at lower prices and for heavy discounts to incentives bookings hit tour operators'

margins and profits."
Paul Jackson, the finance director, said the leaking of the letter "makes me very very angry. "The company has £55m in the bank and made £7.7m in pre-tax profits. These are the facts," he said. He said letter was erroneous and that it should not have been sent at all. He said it was written by a junior mem-ber of staff and added of Mr Keay that "I do not believe he saw it".

# City with Forte buyout plan

MATHEW HORSMAN

Sir Rocco Forte last night stunned the City with a proposed leveraged huyout of the Forte hotel empire from Granada. The assets, which include luxury hotels in Britain and overseas, are worth £2.5bn according to Forte's own fig-

Analysts warned that the new company would be highly leveraged in a sector that demands huge injections of

But few were completely surprised by the dramatic move, pointing out that Sir Rocco had made it clear he intended to re-turn to the hotels husiness. possibly through a bid for some of the Forte hotels that Granada will sell to help pay off the £2.5bn in debt it took on to finance its £3.8bn hostile offer, which was declared unconditional on Tuesday.

Warburg, Cazenove, Morgan Stanley, UBS and JP Morgan. According to Fone, financial discussions have been encouraging.
It successful, the group could
seek a stock marketing listing.
A concrete proposal is to be

made within a few weeks. Sir Rocco said last night. Granada has already lined up several potential buyers for the hotels business, and is expected to drive a hard bargain. ITT-Sberaton, Bass, Accor and Marriott are among the possible buyers. According to Forte's own figures, the assets targeted in the LBO are worth about £2.5hn. but carry about £1hn in deht. Sir Rocco, along with his sister. Olea Polizzi, are be-

Source: FT Information

lieved to particularly covet the Waldorf-Astoria hotel and the Meridien chain. If successful, the LBO would also give them the Exclusive Hotels and 12 other hotels in London.

Ironically, they would use some of the £300m the Forte family will receive from Granada when they tender their own shares. Sir Rocco is also likely to receive about £200,000 as compensation for the breaking of his management contract.

All told. Granada is selling assets worth £2hn, including its stake in the Savoy Group of hotels. Mr Robinson plans to meet the Savoy management by next week to discuss an order ly disposal of the shares.

Separately, sources at Whithread rubbished reports that it had failed to support Forte in a last-ditch effort to keep the botels group independent. According to the reports, Whitbread, which had agreed to buy Forte's restaurants and hudget hotels for £1hn if the Granada offer was resisted, was meant to buy Forte shares in the market and to offer up to 400p to buy the pivotal 14 per cent stake held by Mercury Asset Management.

Whithread is now expected to hid for Forte's Welcome Break motorway service areas, which

are being sold by Granada. Granada said it might over turn the £122m sale of the White Hart hotel chain to Regal Hotels, announced just be-fore Forte succumhed to Granada's £3.8bn bid, because the deal was not done on a cash basis. "In the round, we are unenthusiastic about anything but

## Sir Rocco stuns Golden handcuffs for Grand Met director

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks group which has developed a reputation for richly rewarding its directors, has contract to its latest boardroom appointment.

Paul Walsh, an American who looks after the group's Pilisbury business in the US and who was appointed to the main Grand Met board in October, will be a paid a lump sum of \$750,000 plus interest if he is still in the company's employment in seven years. This is in addition to his \$910,000 annual

non-compete and gagging who left the company. Ian Marclause. He is running one of the tin, who left the company to bebest US food companies and we need to keep up with rival lev-paid £557,458.

Under the terms Mr Walsh qualifies for the payment as long as he undertakes not to join a competing food group within 18 months or divulge details of the company's operations within

He does not receive the payment if he leaves the company within seven years.

Details of the "seven-year itch" scheme follow a year during which Grand Met has paid

The company said: "Basical- compensation payments toly it is golden handcuffs with a tailing £1.3m to two directors

> £790,000, the company confirmed yesterday, when he lost out to John McGrath in the battle for the position of chief executive.

At the other end of the pay scale, the company last month paid £106,000 in compension to 900 of its Burger King staff who were told to clock off on unpaid breaks whenever the

outlets were quier Meanwhile, Scantronic, the security alarms firm, revealed yesterday a £780,000 payout to former chief executive Chris Brookes hit profits. The payout followed Scantronic's takeover

Together with the cost of closing Scantronics's headquarters, the pay-off has caused a £1m exceptional charge that will wipe out any profits made in the second half to April.

Mr Brookes had been on a five-year contract until Scantronic's board negotiated it down to three years shortly before the £10.5m takeover.

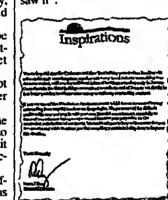
He was on a salary of £210,000 plus pension contri-

butions at 15 per cent of salary, at a time when Scantronic had fallen heavily into loss. Menvier said it will also be writing down the value of Scant-

last November by Menvier ronic stock on its balance sheet Mr Brookes' payout was not the only one to hit Menvier

Just before Christmas the firm also paid a sum believed to be £250,000 to settle a lawsuit with the former finance director Ray Dias. Mr Dias left the company af-

ter pressure from institutions when Scantronic hit trading problems amid mounting deht in July 1994.



Bad news: The letter at the heart of the matter

#### Gardner tipped as **British Gas chief**

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

British Gas concluded a round of sweeping boardroom changes with the appointment as group finance director of Philip Hampton, the 42-year-old finance director of British Steel, Mr Hampton succeeds Roy Gardner, who has taken on a much wider brief and is increasingly regarded as the eventual replacement for the chief executive, Cedric Brown, now seen as the last of the old guard.

Mr Gardner, who joined from GEC in late 1994, takes on the formidable responsibility of renegotiating long-term con-tracts with North Sea producers, which are forcing the company to buy much more gas than it can sell, often at prices above those available in the market today. At the same time, he will be in charge of the gas supply business at a time

when the domestic market is being opened up to competition from rivals, including offshore companies and electricity firms. British Gas also confirmed

that John Whyhrew would join the board from Shell, in the newly created role of director for strategic planning and corporate affairs. A spokeswoman said that Peter Sanguinetti, the director for corporate affairs, would continue in his role and

report to Mr Whybrew. Mr Hampton, who is highly regarded by City analysts, re-ceives a £70,000 golden helio in addition to his £295,000 salary. The up-front payment is to compensate him for loss of share options at British Steel, where his package of pay and bonus was almost £290,000.

Mr Whybrew's salary is £275.000 and, as with Mr Hampton and other British Gas directors, he receives neither bonuses nor share options. I the British Heart Foundation.

#### SFA fines Panmure over fraud worth £3m

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker, has been fined £50,000 plus costs of £10,000 and severely reprimanded by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) over a £3m fraud by a former

The SFA yesterday criticised Panmure for "inadequate protection of clients' assets, for failure in its control of its internal affairs and for failing to adequately train and properly supervise its staff."

The City regulator also banned the fraudster concerned, Jeremy Gray, from further investment husiness and ordered him to pay costs of £4,000. Last October Mr Gray was jailed for six years after being convicted of stealing more than £3m. Gray, 27, laundered shares owned by his father and

He did this while working as an assistant to a director in Panmure's private client stock-

broking department. Panmure discovered the frauds in the spring of 1994, seven years after Gray joined the firm. Panmure immediately informed the SFA and the police Gray, of Clapham, south

London, was convicted last October of theft, false accounting and handling stolen goods. Pannure is still trying to recover money from accounts in Denmark, the Netherlands and

The SFA said that in January 1994 Mr Gray directed that around £55,000 held by Panmure on behalf of a client should be transferred to a Luxembourg account. In the following month Gray directed the transfer of £3m of stock held in a "depot" account in New York. on behalf of another client, to a third party in New York.

### Postgraduate Courses

As the only official sponsors of the 1996 University of LondonPostgraduate Fair. The Independent is running a postgraduate course feature in Section Two, with specific editorial, details on the fair and pages of courses.

> See Pages 16 - 21 **Section Two**

For further information call the Courses Team on 0171 293 2298

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Back comes the Forte family with a highly leveraged bid designed to buy precisely the same assets Granada now needs to sell. How much simpler and less costly if they had all sat down and done

this in the first place?

# Wait till we see the colour of Rocco's money

his empire. The concept is splendidly romantic, as well as making the last two months of bitterty contested takeover battle seem like theatre of the absurd.

Just think of it. Granada bids £3.8bn knowing that the standard is need to be seen the seem like theatre of the absurd. knowing that to make the hid work it needs to dispose of more than £2hn of assets. Then back comes the Forte family, in conjunction with its advisers and JP Morgan of the US with a highly leveraged bid designed to huy precisely the same assets as Granada now needs to self - the Meridien chain, the Exclusive hotels and the Savoy stake. How much simpler and less costly if they had all sat

down and done this in the first place? Whether it can be made to work depends critically on what Sir Rocco can and is prepared to pay. If he can pay the asset value attributed to these properties in the deformer thanks. defence, then Granada may feel obliged to deal. Until we see the colour of Forte's money, however, the offer looks like little more than the bravado of a defeated

#### McAlpine shows way out of insanity

here's nothing like a hid to galvanise otherwise humbling management. Share-hulders in Alfred McAlpine, including the increasingly peeved McAlpine family trusts.

Forte's hid to reclaim at least a pan of his empire. The concept is splendidly romantic as well as well concept is splendidly romantic as well as well

throat construction market.

Investors in the most oversupplied, inefficient sector to clutter British industry must wonder what else has to be done to persuade McAlpine's peers to follow suit. Only in contracting could an industry-wide turnover of around £50bn result in an aggregate loss.

The outlook for the sector is hardly encouraging. Total output fell by 3 per cent in 1995 and forecasts suggest it is unlikely to recover until 1997. The worst of it is in the heavier end of the sector, which is being clobbered by the Government's insistence on sacrificing infrastructure to a housing and consumer recovery. At the same time, low inflution means continuing cost-cutting is the only answer for materials companies.

The recent asset swap between Tarmac and Wimpey and Kvaerner's bid for Amee added a degree of excilement to a sector that has otherwise been a dead loss for four years. But amid the recent action it is easy to forget just how rare such moves are in the contracting husiness. Beside the recent excitement at Amec, there have only been two hostile takeover hids in this sector in the last 10 years (YJ Lovell for Higgs & Hill and Lilley for Tifoury I; both failed and the aggressors went on to suffer severe trading prob-lems with Lilley eventually going hust. There are several reasons why the insun-

capacity among the larger contractors has lit-tle effect. With no assets to talk of, contructors' balance sheets are difficult to value, putting off potential hidders. Moreover, merging two companies rarely increases the chances of winning big con-tracts. Where there were once two bidders for the contract, there is now just one. The normal rationale for mergers Jone and one

making three) is reversed. So. McAlpine is right, the only way to solve the mess is to pull out altogether. Whether increasing the company's relative exposure to civil engineering and housebuilding is the answer remains to be seen. hut at least the company has shown the dis-gruntled McAlpine family trusts that it is doing something.

#### German model loses its looks

A ngst is a national condition in Germany, so the self-doubt that has crept into this great powerhouse of the European economy is hardly new. For once, however, Germany is right to worry. There is little doubt that economically things are going badly wrong. The effectiveness of the German govern-ment's response to this looming crisis will be watched closely by a wider world, not least in the UK, where the German model is seen

shows symptoms of overload. Following the rise in unemployment to nearly 10 per cent, the government has now downgraded its projection for growth this year to only 1.5 per cent. Not only has Germany substantially overshot the Maastricht budget deficit/GDP ratio of 3 per cent, it is set to crash through the debt/GDP ratio of 60 per cent.

The unexpected economic slowdown that started last year is the main cause. That in turn was helped on its way by the appreci-ation of the mark to record levels against the dollar last spring. But what added salt to the whund was a big jump in wages, with a two-year inflation-busting deal in the key engi-neering sector. This is clearly proving too much for many companies, given the strong real appreciation of the mark in the 1990s. Some relief has come from the Bundesbank, with three half-point cuts in the dis-count rate last year. Yesterday's further easing in the reporate sent a strong signal that December's discount rate reduction to 3 per cent may not be the last. A further reduc-

tion to 2.5 per cent – something that has only occurred once before – now seems odds-on. As Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, conceded at the Group of Seven meeting in Paris last weekend, the rigidity of European labour markets is itself a cause of slow growth. Amhitious plans agreed by the government and both sides of industry | guide to the future.

to halve unemployment by the end of the century are an advance in the right direction for they include more flexible working hours, the use of temporary jobs and the expansion of part-time jobs. Collective barnaining between employers organization gaining between employers organisations and unions will remain the cornerstone of

the German labour market, however. Those in favour of the German system say that wage co-ordination and direction help to keep down unemployment. The argument is that if the Bundesbank raises interest rates, Germany doesn't have to go through the pain of recession to bring down wages; negotiators will instead take pre-empting estion. By contrast, the company and the contrast the contrast of the contrast the tive action. By contrast, the sorry post-war experience of the UK is that in an unco-ordinated set-up, workers have to feet the burn before they're willing to ease up on demands

for higher wages.
But just because something has worked in the past doesn't mean to say it will always work. Kenneth Clarke has taken the offen-sive on the great jobs dehate, arguing that the flexible labour market is proving more effective in cutting unemployment than the rigid systems in Continental Europe. In the run up to the Group of Seven jobs summit in Lille this spring, the spotlight is bound to swing onto the jobs crisis on the Continent. The Germans were always going to stick by their system - it has served them well. Yet while the German model has proved its worth in the past, it looks a less attractive

# Monopolies chief seeks to bypass ministers

#### PETER RODGERS

Graeme Odgers, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, said yesterday that the Office of Fair Trading should he allowed to make direct references of mergers to the MMC, reducing the ability of ministers to intervene in takeover battles.

His proposal would shift the balance of power from politi-cians to officials and radically change the background to City takeovers, where ministerial decisions on references are ofli follows a similar call by

John Bridgeman, the director general of fair trading, who said before Christmas that there was a case for giving him the right to hypass ministers in making merger references.

Mr Odgers said the present system 'arguably introduces a political input at too early a stage of the regulatory process".

The two most senior competition officials have unveiled their proposals as the Government draws up a detailed consultative document on changes in competition policy, which is to be published in the spring. But the Department of Trude and Industry said there were no plans to change present arrangements for merger references.

These are currently made only by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, after receiving advice from the director general of fair trading.

The vast majority of recom-mendations by the OFT to refer takeovers are in practice accepted by the DTI, but the re-



Power shift: Graeme Odgers' proposals for merger references to bypass ministers would radically change the background to City takeovers

fusals tend to be high-profile and politically sensitive cases.

The OFT said that since 1976 the government had overturned OFT recommendations 19 times, including once under Mr Bridgeman, when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, takeover of Norweb by North West Water. Recommendations by his predecessor, Sir Bryan Carsberg, were overturned three times. In one of them, the GEC bid for VSEL, the submarine-builder, Sir Bryan said there were no competition grounds for a reference - but the Government sent the hid to

Mr Odgers said that even after giving the OFT the right to make direct references, ministers should retain the power to make their own merger references.

If the move to direct references were accepted, it would bring merger cases into line with monopolies law, where the OFT already sends cases to the MMC without going through

Government to embark quick-

ministers first. With monopolies references, rejected an inquiry into the the Government also has the power to veto a reference made by the OFT. But ministers are likely to find that a veto imposed after a decision by the OFT is harder to justify in public than the present system, in which ministers simply reject advice. Mr Odgers also called on the

on a number of reforms of the MMC on public interest competition law. But he made clear that he rejected proposals for a radical change that would merge the OFT and the MMC into a single hody and hring British monopolies law in line with European practices.

Mr Odgers hacked a strengthening of the investiga-tive powers of the OFT and also giving it powers to put an im-mediate stop 10 some anticompetitive practices such as predatory pricing.

At the moment, no action can be taken until after inquiries are completed, and sometimes the businesses affected have collapsed by then.

Mr Odgers said the Government had also recognised the need to replace the Restrictive Trade Practices Act with legislation on the lines of Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. "I would like to see these changes implemented quickly" he added.

The Government has been promising action for several vears but there was no legislation in the Queen's Speech and the next step is only a government paper.

#### 650 jobs cut at Alfred McAlpine TOM STEVENSON staff are to go immediately and been in response to wafer-thin another 300 to follow. The margins that have seen much of McAlpine's non-executive margins that have seen much of

Alfred McAlpine is to shed 650 jobs as it closes its traditional open-tender building business. The shuldown, the latest move in the restructuring of the UK construction sector, will knock a £34m hole in profits for the year to December, sending the company "sub-

stantially" into the red. Despite the prospect of losses, the news was welcomed by the City, which pushed McAlpine's shares 10p higher to 158p. Many companies have trumpeted their refusal to join in the cutthroat tendering competition for building work, but few have acted as positively to withdraw from the overcrowded market

All the job losses are in the building division, where 350

move represents a dramatic cutback for the company, which employs about 4,000, including 900 in the US. It is the latest stage in a reduction that has seen the number employed in the industry fall by 500,000 to 1.3 million since 1989.

McAlpine's decision leaves it evenly balanced between househuilding and civil engineering. The company also plans to set up a "special projects" division, to focus on jobs such as new football stadiums, hospitals and leisure industry building works.

The withdrawal follows the announcement of a large asset swap hetween Tarmae and Wimpey and the withdrawal of several large contracting businesses from their housebuilding operations. All the moves have

the UK building industry struggling to recover from the recession that started more than five years ago.

The restructuring of Mc-Alpine's contracting division comes after a difficult period for the company in which it has been publicly criticised by its largest shareholder, the McAlpine family trusts, and approached in an unsuccessful hid attempt by rival Amec.

Last Seplember a leaked letter from Sir Chips Keswick, acting on behalf of the McAlpine family, which still holds 15 per cent of the shares, said: "We have lost any confidence that we may have had that the present senior executive management is capable of rebuilding the group's profitability."

chairman leaves the company in May following the annual meeting and earlier this week a new finance director, Gavin Morris from Norcros, was appointed.

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive, said: "Although the costs will result in the group reporting a substantial loss for 1995, the reorganisation is expected to lead to significant

He said it had been a difficult decision to pull out of what had heen a core husiness, but warned that the division had produced disappointing results for some time and was showing no signs of improvement.

"Some people think it will get better in 1996/97 as the Government hands out sweeties ahead of the general election hut we don't agree", he said.

# Imports push non-EU deficit up by £2.4bn

DIANE COYLE **Economics Correspondent** 

Britain's deficit in trade with countries outside the EU soared by £2.4bn to £7.5bn last year, despite a record surplus on trade in cars. Yesterday's figure suggested that the full trade deficit for 1995, due next week. is likely to be more than £12bn, compared with £10.7bn the

previous year.

The biggest-ever deficit with North America, at more than £1.8bn, lay behind the weaker non-EU trade performance. The gap between imports and exports lurned £2bn for the worse as the US economy slowed.

Imports of 'intermediate' goods such as microchips and electrunic components surged. and there were also unusually high imports of silver in the second half of the year.

However, there was an £800m surplus on trade in cars, the highest since the series began. Thanks to a 25 per cent jump in exports, this was twice

the previous year's surplus.
The overall gap widened to
£613m in December, up from £436m. Even so, the figure was better than expected and City economists suggested that the

trend could be stabilising. The volume of imports - excluding oil and erratic items jumped 6 per cent in the month. compared with a 1.5 per cent rise in exports. But their growth

has been similar over the past three months taken together. Underlying export volumes are back on a clearly upwards

an economist at the broken Hoare Govett. During 1995 as a whole there was a 6 per cent increase in export volumes, with imports up per cent. There were particularly big advances in imports of food, beverages and tobacco

trend." said Kevin Darlington,

ufactures. Imports of basic materials and semi-finished manufactures were higher year-on-year, but fell sharply during the last quarter of the year.

- mainly meat and fruit and veg-

etables - and finished man

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, said this fitted with survey evidence that firms were cutting back stock levels, which had built up rapidly earlier in the year.

Import prices rose significantly more than export prices due to the surge in commodity prices earlier in the year and the pound's decline.

Import prices were 11 per cent higher than in 1994, compared with a 6 per cent increase in export prices.

Some analysts suggested that British exporters had taken advantage of the fall in the pound last year to build profit margins rather than sales. If so, exports could be hit by weaker growth overseas this year.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Optimism on rates sends Dow soaring

Hopes that US interest rates will fall next week were boosted yesterday by weaker-than-expected figures for industrial output in December. The news drove the Dow Jones industrials index up more than 50 points to a record 5,242.48 by late morning before retreating slightly, writes Diane Coyle.

Treasury bonds gain more than half a point. Separate figures showing Japan's annual trade surplus with America had strunk for the first time for five years took the dollar to its highest level for nearly two years. It rose more than a ven to \(\frac{1}{106.95}\) before closing at ¥106.82 in London. It also rose above DM1.48, partly due to a further reduction yesterday in the German Bundesbank's reporate, a key money market interest rate. The pound fell slightly

#### Bellway swoops on Wainhomes shares

Troubled housebuilder Wainhomes went on bid alert yesterday after rival Bellway took advantage of the recent plunge in its share price to pick up a 4.8 per cent stake. Alan Robson, finance director of Bellway, denied the two companies were in discussions that might lead to an offer, saying only that the shares looked attractive at last week's low of 66p compared with net assets per share in the latest balance sheet of 95p. Wainhomes shares rose 10p yesterday to close at 90p.

#### M&S reports strong Christmas trade

Marks & Spencer has reported an upbeat Christmas trading statement, though sales in France were seriously affected by the strikes in Paris. Group sales in the five weeks to 30 December were up 6.5 per cent. Sales in the 12 weeks to the same date were 4.7 per cent ahead of the same period last year with general merchandise up 4.8 per cent and food sales up 4.4 per cent. M&S will open its first German store in Cologne this autumn.

#### £870m Welsh Water bid cleared

The Government has cleared the £870m bid by Welsh Water for South Wales Electricity after the water group gave undertakings demanded by Ian Byatt, the industry watchdog. Welsh has said it will seek a separate listing for the core water operations for the issue of new preference shares.

#### NM Rothschild to announce strategy

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild today announces the future strategy of the family-owned merchant bank. He is expected to tell staff that NM Rothschild will pursue its independence strategy as an international boutique, focusing on advisory services. Rothschild was approached last year by NatWest Group, interested in some form of co-operation to shore up its corporate finance activities.

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#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

# Sleepy WH Smith needs shaking

WH Smith: at a glance

Market value: £1.14bn, share price 407b

13.4 142

WH Smith's new chief executive, Bill Cockburn, made all the right noises vesterday though it must be difficult to sound positive when you are announcing half-year profits of just £17m on sales of £1.3bn together with a profits warning for the second half.

The former head of the Post Office spoke enthusiastically about shaking up Smith's sleepy culture (shades of the Post Office), cutting costs and being more pro-active rather than just sitting back and waiting for others to take the initiative. His view is that, like Boots, WH Smith has a strong brand name on the high street but must make better use of it. He wants Smith to becume the first name in childrens education and hobbies. He is also keen to increase the core chain's average customer

spend, which is less than £5 These are all good points but could prove harder to implement than he hopes. As Mr Cockburn no doubt found at the Post Office, changing a cor-porate culture is a long, hard slog, mea-sured in years, not months. Cutting costs will be welcome hut if these include targe-scale redundancies, the next set of figures is tikely to be

scarred by large provisions.
WH Smith must also face its structural problems. Its key difficulty is that it is caught between specialist stores and the supermarkets, which are increasiongly moving into music and videos. Smith's problems are exacerbated by the fact that its own specialist chains, such as Waterstones and Virgin Our Price. are cannibalising the main stores more than management admits.

The group also needs fewer formats. Here the obvious headache is Do It All. the loss-making DIY joint venture with Boots. Smith's share of the loss was £7.7m in the six months to December and could be as high as £16m for the full year, Like-for-like sales were 3 per cent down in the half-year and with Texas Homecare being absorbed by Sains-bury's Homebase, the group faces an increasingly competitive market.

The company is refurbishing stores and closing others but more radical action is necessary. Closure or the sale of its 50 per cent share to Boots may be the answer, though this would be expensive and Boots is unlikely to be willing.

For shareholders, much will depend on the results of Mr Cockburn's strategic review, which will not be completed until the spring. In the meantime the company - and the shares - are likely to remain in limbo. After last year's profits warning, the shares have already enjoyed a bounce but remained un-changed by yesterday's news at 407p. BZW has downgraded its full-year profits forecast from £95m to £85m which puts the shares on a forward rating of 20. High enough.

#### Textile sector worth a spin

It is little wonder the textiles sector has been such a dull area of the stock market over the past year. The industry has been squeezed between soaring raw material prices on the one hand, and depressed sales caused by consumer diffidence and an exceptionally warm nummer on the other. After running up summer on the other. After running up through the early part of 1995, shares in December that the warm weather in the sector have now come all the way back down, leaving the FT-SE textiles & apparel index just 1 per cent higher

than where it was a year ago. But the index has already rebounded from a level not seen since last year. when raw material price worries were at their worst, and there are plenty of more tangible reasons to be bullish about textiles. The rise in raw material

Trading record

Dividends per share (pence)

Operating profits

. Pre-tax profits (£m)

6 months, £m

with near-term cotton contracts currently changing hands at around 85 cents a pound, compared with around \$1.20 nine months to a year ago. Meanwhile, base rate cuts and tax reductions should provide a boost to high street spending in 1996, an expectation given some support by the generally op-timistic tone of recent Christmas trading statements from retailers.

The imponderable remains the weather, but the chances are that 1996 will not repeat the record temperatures of last year, providing more incentive for consumers to go out and spend.

Investors looking to dip into textiles could do worse than look at Coats Viyella, which is well managed and has dumped a number of commodity busiwould hit last year's profits, which are expected by brokers Granville Davies to be around £146m. But they should rise to £166m in the current year, putting the shares down 2p at 194.5p

on a prospective multiple of 13. Dewhirst, a major supplier to Marks & Spencer, which has been revitalised by new management, is another stock worth a second look. The shares, up 1p

1992 1993 1994 1995 1995 1996 .

213 231 241 269 1217 136

108.1 113.8 834 100.9 45.2 17.3

312 311 199 239 112 10

Share price

pence

15.4 15.65 5.25 5.25

prices now seems to be past its worst, at 184p, now stand on forward price/earnings of 15, based on Granville's forecast of £22.5m current year profits. But, after outperforming the market by 16 per cent last year, they may be in for a period of consolidation.

#### Frost is petrol war casualty

The appointment of Christopher Walsh, an oil industry veteran, to the board of Frost did little for the embattled petrol station group's shares yesterday. The price dropped another 4p to 155p, taking the fall over the past week to 14 per cent. Even with his 30 years of experience in the business, the new non-exective director will have his work cut out to reverse the problems facing Frost.

The body blow came last week, when Esso faunched a big petrol price war by extending its price watch campaign to the whole country. At a stroke, the market's leading petrol retailer reduced its prices to the level of the supermarkets; which have carved out 22 per cent of the market from a standing start only a few years ago. Six days into the campaign, the signs are that the hig store groups have yet to respond to Esso's move by reducing their own prices. But the threat remains and analysis have already slashed 1996 profits forecasts for Frost by around £6m to £15m.

Frost is exposed because of last year's £83m deal to buy Burmah Castrol's petrol station business. The acquisition came close to doubling the group, bringing in 182 owned sites to add to the existing chain of 240 and 807 supply con-

tracts to independent outlets.
In the light of the savage competitive environment, the Petrol Retailers' Association is forecasting that 70 per cent of the 10,000 independents will be forced out of business over the next two years. When it bought the Burmah business in June. Frost predicted it would lose 300 of its supply contracts in two years.

In fact, that has already happened and the company expects it could end up with as few as 300 in total.

The Esso move was in the wind at the time of the Burmah deal and James Frost, the chairman, has shown himself adept at weathering previous storms in the industry. But, despite a prospective price/earnings multiple of just 11, the shares are best avoided for now.

# Simon Pincombe CITY DIAR

# A day of triumph for Anglo-Saxon pluck

The champagne atmosphere at yesterday's Granada annual meeting is flattened by the irritating intervention of the ubiquitous old huffer with a point of order (it must be the same person who goes to them all). This one has a plum in his mouth and insists on confounding the still-jubi-lant board with irrelevant and incomprehensible observations and questions.

The first of many noted that Alex Bernstein, the Granada chairman, must now he prepared to work within the G30 group of industrialised nations and not just G7 - because the higger group includes the Philippines. Mr Bernstein's response was to stare blankly for a while before assuring the malcontent that Granada was an equal opportunity

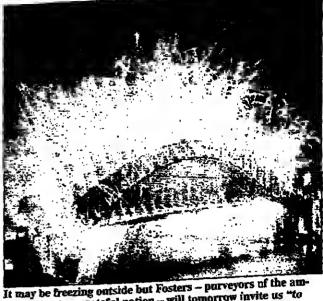
But it did not stop there More trivia followed. And still more. Then, pretending to be unimpressed by explanations on aspects of the report and accounts, the buffer demanded the chairman use 'simple Anglo-Saxon words" to put his message across.

"Actually. I'm a great heliever in short Anglo-Saxon words," retorted Mr Bernstein to resounding cheers from the floor.

Grim news from the Central Statistical Office and we are not talking about the trade figures. The releatless drive for a leaner Whitehall machine has meant the end to the time-honoured practice of serving coffee and hiscuits at economic briefings. The complimentary glass of wine at "very important economic briefings" is also history.

The costs savings are expected to be enormous. The contract caterer Gardner Merchant (once owned by Forte) has been charging the Government 75p for each truly dreadful cup of coffee.

The Christmas party of the



ber nectar to a grateful nation - will tomorrow invite us "to celebrate the Australian way of life" with the biggest beer promotion campaign ever seen in the UK. For the less cultured, tomorrow is Australia Day and the brewer is to unveil a £5m campaign to take 1,000 Britons on a "dream holiday" Down Under. The airlift will involve nine special Qantas flights to Sydney (above) where the 1,000 winners of a national competition called Fostralia 1,000 (I'm afraid so) will be let loose among the barbies with more lager than they can handle.

solicitors Davies Arnold Cooper is still causing reverberations throughout the tegal profession. It seems the firm's credit controller - one Barry Desouza - did a turo with six lawyers and a secretary which went down harnstormingly well.

Featuring such contemporary classics as 'Mustang Sally, 'Honky Tonk Woman' and 'Addicted to Love', it was an accomplished set by all ac-counts. And the reviews are terrific. "The man is tipped to be the next Luther Vandross," notes the trade magazine, The Lawyer. Certainly Mr Desouza is

not your average credit con-troller. He has sung with Womack and Womack and the Style Council and is in much demand on the London circuit. The backing band (called The Limitations) is also reaching for the stars and should have no

trouble negotiating a record-ing contract should the offer come along.

No comment from the dellated Forte camp on the sudden reappearance of one of Sir Rocco's long-lost flames in a Little Chef in Surrey. The odds must bave been greater than a National Lottery jackpot. Simone Knightley, a blonde designer and university lecturer from Dorset, just happened to pop into the cafe with her husband while on her way home from India. There she just happened to bump into a reporter from the Daily Telegraph who had been dispatched to get background colour on the final day of the hid. "I used to be Rocco's girlfriend," she announced to the incredulous back.

And yes. She chose the Linda McCartney veggie hurger.

### Insurers face £500m storm b

NIC CICUTTI

Insurance companies face a claims after the storm damage suffered in Scotland and the North of England a few weeks ago, fresh research revealed

Up to 3.5 million people may have been affected by the storms, which led to a big freeze and power cuts in many areas.

But it was the subsequent thaw that led to massive damage from burst pipes, both to commercial premises and private households, according to the study, by Willis Faber & Du-

mas, the reinsurance group. The report's findings, which classed the freeze as the thirdmost expensive for the industry m a generation, clash with carlier estimates by UK insurers. For some time afterwards, they

were likely to be minimal.

tween £300m and £500m was caused by the failure of electrical supplies, which led to large numbers of burst pipe

Many tirms were putting in claims for business interruption with a further widespread im-

between £500 and £1,000, with some exceptional cases of up to

insisted claims against them, yesterday that the scale of Willis Faber & Dumas said 5 per cent of total property in- This is the kind of thing insur-

pact on industry following water shortages caused by burst water supply pipes. Despite this problem, brewers and distillers were unaffected, the report said. Household claims averaged

£10,000 being reported. On the business side, a num-

her of commercial losses of more than £750,000 each have been reported to insurers. Willis Faber & Dumas said

claims could oust between 3 and have an impact on premiums.

Oliver Peterken, director of research at Willis Faber & Dumas, said: "We hased our paper on the worst-case scenario, that there were 500,000 units damaged. But the market is starting to see commercial losses com-

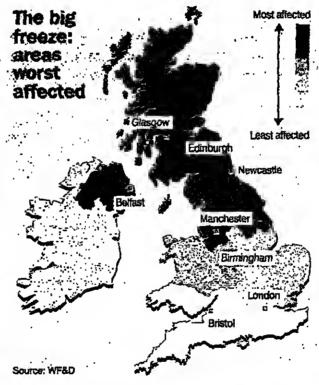
ing in which are much higher.
The important thing is the volume of claims rather than the average cost of each claim. We estimate a bill of up to £300m for households, with commercial losses thereafter.

The thing to remember is that for a domestic customer a flood is an unpleasant event. For an industrial customer it is not just damage to property but business interruption - those can take time to come in and will be more expensive.

"I would not expect this to

Chris Dore, personal claims manager at Eagle Star, said: We guessed the number of claims roughly right, but there is no doubt that the value of many claims has been rather more than we anticipated. There have been quite a lot of serious instances of damage, which in the early days we did not expect.

"It was difficult to get plumbers out initially and there was so much emergency work that our immediate reaction was to make sure the insured was okay rather than assess mitial costs. The scale of claims was more serious than first assumed, but still within bounds that should not materially affect our results or lead to an increase in premiums for policyholders."



#### IN BRIEF

#### Quitting insurance costs Xerox \$1.5bn

Xerox Corporation, the US photocopier giant, has reported a loss of \$1.09bn in the fourth quarter after a \$1.55bn one-off charge. The provision related to the group's disengagement from insurance operations, leaving a loss for the year of \$472m or \$5.26 a share, fully diluted, compared with carnings of \$794m in 1994. Revenues from the core document processing business rose to \$4.8bn in the fourth quarter from \$4.6bn, and to \$16.6bn for the whole of 1995, up from \$15.1bn the previous year.

#### Pub operator to buy more sites

Surrey Free Inns, the AIM-listed southern pub operator, has provisionally agreed to buy 10 more sites for its Litten Tree "superpuh" chain. The new outlets are set to open towards the end of this financial year. The announcement came as Surry unveiled a 54 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £606,000 in half-year to 19 November. The interim dividend is hoisted a quarter to 1p.

#### Ad agency ahead after float

Media Business Group, the advertising buying agency, has reported record profits in its first results since flotation last September. The pre-tax figure jumped 30 per cent to £412,000 in the six months to October. The maiden dividend is being brought forward from the forecast date of October, with an interim payment of 0.03p declared.

#### Australian small company trust rejects bid

The board of NM Smaller Australian Companies Trust has called on shareholders to reject the hostile bid from Pacific Assets Trust. After discussions with PAT and other possible bidders, the directors' terms have not been met. These include seeking a continued exposure to Australia for investors and obtaining a cash or nearrecently joined the board as a shares. Buying may have been cash alternative to a share offer.

24211	COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
	Turnoyer £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Deuton (f)	0.05m (0.24m)	-0.03m (-0.03m)	-0.040 (-0.05p)	nii (nii)
Media Business Grp (I)	49.0m (44.1m)	0.41m (Q.32m)	0.12p (0.1p)	0.03p (-)
Mecreter-Swedn Grp. (1)	45.5m (6 09m)	5.9m (5.2m)	8p (6.9p)	1.85p (1.6p)
Prospect Inds (F)	81.8m (57.4m)	-21.3m (5 9m)	-7,24p (2.35p)	0 025p (0.56
With Smitth (I)	1.36tm (1.23tm)	17.3m (45.2m)	4p (11.2p)	S.25p (5.25p)
Shield (1)	0.52m (2.13m)	-0.18m (-0.32m)	-5.1p (-6.7p)	rall (rall)
Surrey Free los (I)	5.79m (5.50m)	0.61m (0.39m)	So (3 8c)	Tp (3.80)

#### CU premium income up 60%

Commercial Union, one of the UK's largest insurers, yesterday bucked the trend facing other parts of the life industry hy announcing that its world-wide life and pension premiums increased by atmost 60 per cent to £2.4bn.

A substantial part of the increase came from the company's French subsidiary. Abeille vie. bought in October 1994 as part of CU's takeover of Groupe Victoire. Abcilte vic's single-precent to £1.49bn.

However, the difficulties facing other insurers were reflected in CU's UK results, which showed new annual premium income fell 26 per cent to £40m.

More positively, the company's single premium business in the UK rose 38 per cent to

£345m, boosted largely by sales of its classic investment bond. World-wide, new annual premiums, the amount investors are prepared to save on a regular basis, rose 12 per cent to £238m.

The company's increase in premium income marks a further stage in its strategy of world-wide diversification, with a growing emphasis on life and pensions business to replace its previous reliance on general

surance activities. CU said that in the Netherlands, growth in new annual premiums increased by 5 per cent while new single premiums rose by 17 per cent. Elsewhere in Europe, new premium income rose by 31 per cent and single premiums by 24 per cent.

#### Biotech shares make another leap

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Shares in British Biotech, the biotechnology group, leapt to a new peak vesterday following buying by one of the directors. The price closed at £21.68, up 198p on the day, meaning the sbares have more than doubled since the November announcement of promising re-sults from trials of the group's Marimastat anti-cancer drug sent the price souring.

Yesterday's move seems to

non-executive director.

Mr de Ruiter, a Dutchman, is an old contact of John Raisman, the Biotech chairman, who knew him at Shell, where he sits on the board. He is also a director of Heineken and Aegon, the giant Dutch insurance group.

Apart from Mr de Ruiter's

purchases, the company could not account for yesterday's have been prompted by the ac-sharp price movement. Trading

quisition of 3,000 shares at in the shares was strong yes-£18.05 by Henny de Ruiter, who terday, with turnover of 683,000 spurred by two brokers' recommendations last week, when Morgan Stanley moved Biotech from "huy" to "strong huy" and the US house First Boston

also issued a huy note. At the end of November. the share price soared 48 per cent to £15.48 in one day after the company released results apparently showing that cancerous lumours responded to



# "THE OMEGA SETS THE STANDARD BY WHICH ALL EXECUTIVE CARS MUST BE JUDGED" THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL

#### Fokker collapse could put 1,500 Shorts jobs at risk

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Shorts Brothers, the Belfast aerospace company, warned last night that 1,500 jobs would be at risk from the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker.

Bombardier, which owns Shorts, confirmed that it may form part of a rescue bid for Fokker, which on Tuesday sought creditor protection after owner Daimler-Benz withdrew financial aid.

Shorts, which employs 6,800, has about 700 staff working directly on manufacturing wings for the Fokker 100 and Fokker 70 jets and a further 800 involved in making Fokker components and support services. The Belfast company said it had received confirmation that its financial exposure would be

covered, and the company would continue wing production on a stightly reduced schedule. Rolls-Royce and Dowty, pan of TI Group, also supply Fokker. Shorts said that some em-

ployees working on Fokker op-erations would be transferred to other production lines. The Dutch government said

that it was talking to several potential purchasers. It is thought these include IPTN, an Indonesian state-run company. Aircraft makers from Korea, China and Brazil could also gain from Fokker's expertise in the design and manufacture of 70-125seater aircraft. Leo Steijn, a Fokker spokesman, confirmed the company is holding talks with outside partners, but declined to give details.

However, Michel Lord, vice-

president of Bombardier, told the Dutch media last night that the company might consider the acquisition of all or part of Fokker Mr Steijn said Fokker had

enough cash in hand to continue for the time being. The company is negotiating with the government on early payment for four Fokker 60's for the Defence Ministry and one executive jet for the royal family.

Further division between Holland and Germany opened up yesterday as Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economics Minister. criticised Daimler-Benz for refusing to compromise on a rescue plan. Daimler had demanded government money Meanwhile. Daimler accused the Dutch government of abandoning its acrospace industry.

#### The Advanta Visa Card

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# market report/shares

#### DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3758.2 +23.2 FT-SE 250 4086.9 +14.5 FT-SE 350 1863.9+10.5 SEAQ VOLUME 861.5m shares, 35,948 bargains Gilts Index 96.15 +0.17 SHARE SPOTLIGHT

 $\cdot :_{\mathcal{Y}_{\mathcal{S}_{2}}}$ 

2 4 4 5 5 227

#### Standard Chartered races away on takeover rumours The share price of Standard Chartered Bank raced away in late dealings yesterday, and fin-ished the trading session 43.2p higher at 662.5p on strong rumours of a takeover bid from either the eash-rich

National Westminster Bank or BankAmerica. American investors were again said to be picking up stock in Standard which, largely due to sustained bid specu-lation and a better than expected trading performance across its extensive Asian bank-ing nebusek bid and ank-

The bank's profits have recovered strongly since the dis-astrous performance in 1992. Profits before tax in 1994 elimbed from £401m to £510m, and analysts are predicting a result for the year just finished

in excess of £650m. Nat West, ahead 6p to 674p. is flush with cash from the recent £2.3bn disposal of NatWest Bancorp in the US, but analysts said yesterday

#### MARKET REPORT **JOHN** SHEPHERD

European interest rates - a move that dealers said was likely to be set in motion by France, which some were betting to announce a cut in rates today.

Barclays closed with a 6p advance to 785p, Royal Bank of Scotland gained 7p to 588p, and Bank of Scotland put on 3p to 304.5p.

the Federal Reserve would soon also cut rates. Buyers were out in force in the London market. More

than 861 million shares were dealt, spread across 36,000 The crop of bid rumours grows ever larger. There is

Several shares in the pub and restaurant group finished at all-time highs. The specu-lative list included JD Wetherspoon, which climbed 18p to a record 734p. Regent Inns, which also hit a peak with a 9p gain to 729p, and My Kinda Town, 12p higher at 132p.

Renewed bid rumours oushed Vaux, the Sunderlandbased brewer, up by 6p to 298p. Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, tipped as a predator, firmed a penny to

Grist for the rumour mill was also in plentiful supply on the USM and AlM markets. ML Laboratories was a late

mover, rising a penny to 411p just before the closing bell. There is talk that the company will soon announce a big deal with Glaxo Welcome, 11p higher at 911p. The story goes that Glaxo will manufacture ML's anti-

viral drug, which is being test-ed on four Aids patients at London's Hammersmith Hospital. Results from the tests are expected early next month. Glaxo, the speculators added, may throw a protective fence around any deal by buying a large share stake in ML. British Biotechnology had

another storming session, surg-ing 198p to £21.68p on talk of a promising results from tests its cancer drug. Other biotech and pharmaceutical shares recorded advances amid strong buying by American investors.

TAKING STOCK

Magnum Power's volatile shares were one of the day's best performers, surging 15p to 141p. The Scottish inven-tor of power back-np systems for computers is rumoured to be close to signing supply deals with several leading computer companies. One dealer said the first would be announced soon and would be with Compaq of the US. Shares traded as high as 195p last year, and some dealers believe the price could rocket beyond 200p.

The arrival of Donald Trump in London sparked gossip that he was here to cast an acquisitive eye over the capital's top casmos. The main target was said to be London Clubs International, Shares finished the day 9p up at 468p. Capital Gronp, which runs the high-rollers' paradise, Crockfords, firmed

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**Textiles & Apparel** 

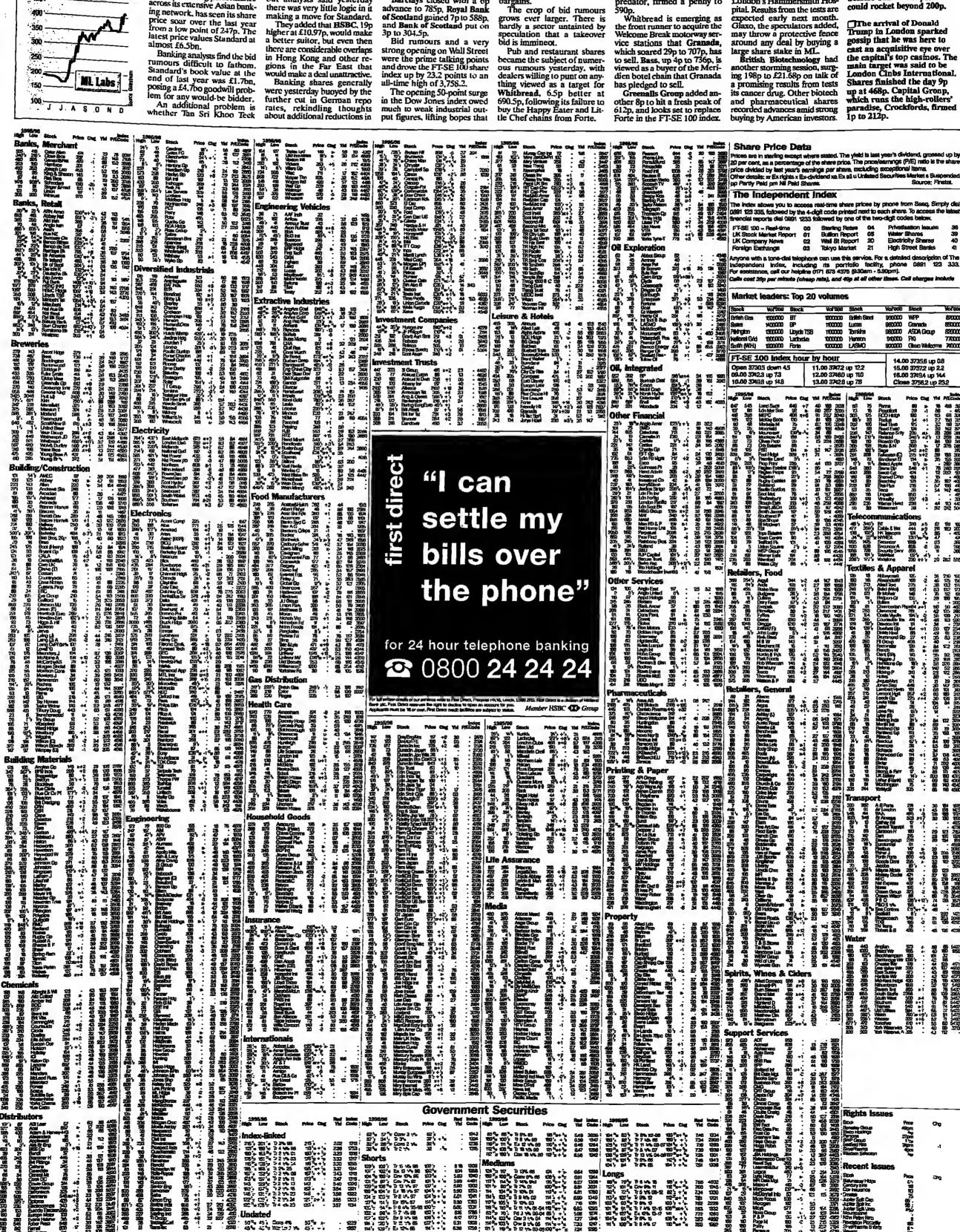
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**Britain** 

survive

**Spanish** 

onslaught

# 'Man takes the Cheltenham challenge

Racing GREG WOOD

One Man may be the 11-8 favourite for the Gold Cup in March after his commanding success in the King George, but for serious backers there is still a disturbing hole in his form which makes support at such short odds hard to justify. The grey has appeared at Cheltenham only twice, and on both occasions he has been deeply disappointing. In two days' time, however, he will get the chance to make it third-time lucky.

Gordon Richards, One Man's trainer, yesterday confirmed that his chaser will line up for Saturday's Piller Properties Investment Chase at the headquarters of National Hunt. He reported that One Man worked extremely well on Tuesday, and confirmed his place in the weekend's big race when he exercised "satisfactorily" yesterday morning. "I have not told Mr Hales [One Man's owner]

WINCANTON

GOING: Chases - Good to Soft; Hurdles - Soft.

1.30 Zingibar

2.00 Samlee 2.30 Morstock

SIS. RACING CHANNEL

HYPERION

GODYG: (TESS) — (1000 to 3000; HUMBES — 2001.

Right-hand, galloping course, Rurt-in of 200pd,

Course is NE of trawn on EXRIT. Templecombe rationsy station 4m. ADMISSION: Members 212:50 (Junior Members, 17 to 22 years, 26:50), Tattervalls S8; Course (and care to course) S4. (Under-16s free into all enclosures), GAE PARK; Free.

ELADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe — 36 winners from 129 numers gives a success ratio of 21.1% and a profit to a 21 level stake of \$19.53; Mrs J Pilman — 30 winners, 75 numers, 20.3%, + \$57.7%, J Gifford — 16 winners, 60 numers, 10.7%, -513.04; P Hobbs — 16 winners, 111 numers, 13.0%, -\$57.5.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: 3 Danwoody — 31 winners, 146 rides, 21.2%, -\$51.55; J Osborne — 11 winners, 63 rides, 17.5%, -\$17.42; C Llewellys — 11 winners, 60 rides, 17.9%, +\$3.5%; M A Fitzgerald — 11 winners, 116 rides, 9.1%, -\$60.00.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Teinein (2.30), Rectory Garden (3.00) & Silver Standard (4.00) have been sent 100 miles by 7 Forster from Ludlow, Shropshire.

1.30 ELITE RACING CLUB JUVENILE NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 4YO 2m Penalty Value £2,355

BEXTING: 9-4 Toute Bagaille, 3-1 Zaugher, 5-1 Annu Benazana, 11-2 Dissolve, 7-1 Handson, Megleri Bid, 20-1 Keltablean, 12-1 others 1995: Mrn A Milson - 11, 2 O Galagher 5-1 (M Blanshard: 9 Pen

test list, 20-2 removed, 12-1 others, 1995; Mint A Million - 11 2 0 Gallagier 5-1 (M Blanshard) 9 ran FORM GUIDE.

These are moderate horses and the race is not worth getting too involved in. There are also a number of possibilities, one of the most likely being that the former French filly TOUTE BAGARLE will improve on her fourth belief Denbys Gorse in testing conditions at Towocester earlier in the month. Sine is having her rights lowered and should hundle more Buently on this better ground. Zingsber, though staying on again, never looked like justifying favourism when dropped into a seller and only third behind Amber Valley at Notungstam last week. It is possible being fitted with a visor might make a tig difference. He is also up against less experienced horses, so he could be good for at least a pisce. Magical Bild may here been a of flattered to run Philewood Ficher as close he did at Ludiow at Ludiow last Thursday. The witner dight find as much as expected effer travelling easily throughout, but that was still a good performance from Magical Bild and he is qualle likely to be thereabours again. At Corniche has struggled since running Much Too High to four lengths at Fontwell in November, including when joint-favourist for a novece handscap over a longer trip at Nottingsam last time. The Fontwell run gives him a chance, while Dissolver's improved that to Robins Prote at the last meeting means he can also be considered. Selection: IOUTE BAGARLE

2.00 MAURICE LISTER MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000

added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £3,912

er, 18-1 Kingsmill Quay, Graphic Designer, 20-1 others 1995: Esscoubleyou 7 11 5 R Greene 4-1 film 1 Rentree-Borons 19 ran FORM GUIDE

3 ANNA BARNANNA (180) (406.000 Recing) M Paps 10 9 PP PACIFIC OVERTURE (48) (CR Barwell) CR Barwell 10 5

yet, but I am going to run him on Saturday." Richards said. The Gold Cup favourite is expected to face just four rivals, since the predicted good ground will rule out Monsieur Le Cure, and Aidan O Brien will run Life

Of The Lord at Leopardstown a week later. It should still be a race of real quality, however, as Flashing Steel, Barton Bank, Young Hustler and Willsford atlempt to puncture the euphoria which now surrounds One Man's every appearance.

The grey's previous visits to Presthury Park were for a novice burdle in 1992, and then the Sun Alliance Chase at the Festival, for which he started favourite, in 1994. He was

soundly beaten in both races. Richards, though, sees no rea-son why One Man should not produce his best form on Saturday. "The course will not be

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sunley Bay (Wincanton 3.00) NB: Lets Rumble (Wincanton 2.00)

a problem," he said. "I would not have entered him for the Gold Cup if 1 didn't think be could go round it."
When asked to nominate the Man on Saturday, Richards

picked Flashing Steel, who is de-

pendable but surely not in the same class as the king George winner. This is a telling reflection of the dedicate of Paragraph and the dedicate of Paragraph tion on the decline of Barton Bank, who won the 1993 King George and was among the favourites for last year's Gold Cup, but now appears unable to recapture his best form.

Like One Man, Barton Bank has not found Cheftenham welcoming, even when he was performing well. His task on Saturday will not be aided by his introduction to a new jockey. following Adrian Maguire's injury at Leicester two days ago. David Nicholson, Barton most serious danger to One Bank's trainer, had not decided yesterday who would re-

place Maguire but was cheered

Maguire's agent, Dave Robents, said: "Adrian has seen a spe-cialist and the injuries are not as serious as first thought. It was thought he had cruciate-ligament damage, but it is not those ligaments that are injured. He should be out for no more than three weeks and could be back for the Tote Gold Tropby."

The build-up to the season's main events continued yesterday with the release of entries both for the Singer & Fried-lander National Trial at Uttoxeter on 10 February, and the Grand National itself on 30

and Royal Athlete, last year's winner, who has not seen a racecourse since.
"He is fine," Mark Pitman, assistant to Royal Athlete's trainer, Jenny, said yesterday.

National winner, heads the list

for Uttoxeter's race, with Lord Relic, owned by Stan Clarke, the

track's chairman, another in-

teresting candidate. Top class at

his best, Lord Relic has not raced since sustaining an injury in the 1994 Welsh National.

Lord Relic is also one of 82

entries for Aintree, along with

Carvill's Hill, another conva-lescent in Martin Pipe's yard,

"We are building his whole year around Aintree. He is coming along steadily and he will have one or two runs before Liverpool. We are taking care and won't rush him."

Of the nine borses who followed Royal Athlete home last April, only two, Dubacilla and Romany King, both now retired, are not among this year's initial entry. Bookmakers, no doubt desperate to boost turnover in We are building his whole



Nicholson: jockey short

sure of the final weights, this is a very rare occasion when Camelot offers better value

2.50 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE

1012-31 ACT THE WAS (82) (D) A Turnell 7 11 3 P Carbierry 2204-1F DO FRIERTLY (82) M Brackstock 7 11 3 P Hoffley 4P-01F HERRIDEAN (24) O Nicholson 8 11 3 R Johnson (2) 12-45U QUITE A MAN (6) W Jerke 8 11 0 T Johnson

1P-45-L QUITE A MANÍ (E) W Jenies B 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ T Jenies P/12P0-6 DO BE HAVE (12) Mis 1 Pitmen B 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ W Illiamston P-P FLOTIDITION (16) John Benry 9 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Lawrence 124F42 GO BRILLSTIC (12) J O'Shee 7 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A Dobble OF MANDOES LIBEACY (8) T Foster T 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_ A Dobble OF MIPPOWN BOY (22) N Cannez 7 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_ A Bedford OF PALIA COURT (23) Mis 1 Wildermenn B 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_ M Michael 1 FF542-D PROKY PPER (7) Pickerng T 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_ M Worthington S 10 F55031 SINVLA BAY (236) O Brennon B 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_ M Brennan B 7-39-24 SEDGE WARRELEK (20) Mis P Roberton 9 10 5 \_\_\_ M Richards

SSI SA. BETTING: 9-2 Hy By North, 5-1 Cambo, 6-1 Johns The Boy, 7-1 Can Con Charles, 8-1 Petimugh, 10-1 Dersing Bridge, Leeswood, 12-1 others

3.50 MARCH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 110yds

(QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m

Hockey BILL COLWILL reports from Barcelona Great Britain another double-rollover week for the Lottery, will offer you 30-I the field, but since even the official handicapper is not yet Great Britain remain on course for a place in the Atlanta Olympics following their draw

> terday in the fifth day of the qualifying tournament. After twice taking the lead, they allowed Spain back into the game and then had to endure a very tense last 25 seconds as Spain took their only penalty corner of the game. Fortunately Nick Thompson was quickly off the line to charge down Joaquin Malgosa's shot. It was Malgosa, with a block

with Spain in Barcelona yes-

on Rob Thompson in the 17th minute, who provided Britain with their only penalty corner of the game. On ran specialist Calum Giles and with what appeared nonchalant ease placed the ball into the back of the net.

Eight minutes into the second half Jaime Amat drifted around the back of the British defence lo equalise from a narrow angle. Within two minutes Britain were back in the lead, Rob Thompson finding himself unmarked at the top of the circle and lashing home Nick Thompson's free hit.

Juan Garcia-Maurino scored Spain's second to maintain their unbeaten record in the tournament. Britain play the Netherlands today in their fifth game. REMATER EVIDENT S. Mason (Reading): J. Wyatt (Reading), Soma Singh (Southgate), G. Fordham (Hourstow), Callier Takiner (Carnock), J. Shaw (Southgate), R. Thompson (Hourstow), J. Lasiett (Teddington, capt), N. Thompson (Old Loughtonsers). Substitutes used: C. Giles (Houset), H. Hoskid (Reading), O. Half (Guidtort),

SPAIN: R Jufress: J Molgosa (capit), J Amat, R Safa, J Amau, V Pupi, J Gartia-Mautino, P Usoz, A Iglestes, J Eccoria, X Amau. Substitutios exoct X Escudo, J Dinares. Umpires: P von Reth (Neth), H ENers (Den).

#### Lara recalled for World Cup assignment

Cricket

Brian Lara has been included in West Indies' 14-strong squad for next month's World Cup. The former Warwickshire player was at the centre of controversy following his withdrawal from the World Series in Ausly choice after he declared his intention to return to international cricket.

The announcement by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control suggested that the matter may not have been cul and dried, however, "Brian Lara was written to by the chairman of the selection committee regarding his involvement in several recent incidents and requesting reassurance of his future commitment to the team, and his loyalty to his fellow players," a

statement said. "The player restated his commitment to West Indies cricket and his respect and admiration of the West Indian community. He added that if selected he would endeavour to perform to

the best of his ability." The selectors also recalled the middle-order batsman Kei-

th Arthurton.
WEST INDRES WORLD CUP SQUAD: R B Richardson (capt), J C Adams, C E L Ambrose, K L T Arthurton, J R Bishon, C O Browne, 5 L Campbell, S Chanderpaul, O O Gibson, R A Harp er, R I C Holder, CL Hooper, S Lara, C A Walsh

#### **Boon retires** from playing for Australia

David Boon is to retire from international cricket after Australia's third and final Test against Sri Lanka, which began today in Adelaide. The 35-yearold was dropped from Australia's limited-overs team earlier this year and was not named in

the squad for the World Cup. He scored a century in the second Test against the Sri Lankans in Melbourge in December, however, and his 7,344 runs in 106 matches put him second behind Allan Border in Australia's all-time Test run-makers list, while his 21 Test centuries rank him fourth among Australians. His Test average stands at 43.71, and he has averaged a century

every 8.95 innings.
Boon said be decided to retire after being dropped from the Australian one-day team before Christmas. "Anyone would be stupid or lying if they said they didn't feel some sort of pressure, but the pressure was coming from within," he said.

"It was a decision I made ahout six weeks ago after discussing it with my wife and family. I loved every single moment of my Australian career and it will be difficult adjusting to life without international cricket."

Boon said he plans to continue playing at Sheffield Shield level for Tasmania.

#### King George rises as Arc support is withdrawn

FORM GUIDE

TEINESN is improving lest and looks ahead of the handicapper. For a few studes he looked in trouble as Saint Cell mounted a challenge from the third last at Nottingham last work, but Tony McCoy didn't have to get remotely serious for Teinean to draw away again on the numer. He won with more in hand then the 6th penanty he has here. America, caboothed and Toen July are all strugging at present and Meritadic is the most likely danger. He was the only one to make any sort of a race of it with Cheny's Lad at Chellecham in December and then rather sport his own chance by helping to set too strong a pace against Most Equal at Warwick. This isn't as competitive as his latest run at Ascot. Keep Nile in Miled was also in that Ascot race. Previous form with Sohigh at Eoster suggested he might have done better, but two of his three wins have been over this course and his earlier head deleast by Bookcase at Easter gives him some hope. He holds Statispack on that run. Smittiglier's Point has run prominently in his two outings this season and seems to be coming to hand. He is not a bad horse on his day.

3.00 PAT RUTHVEN & GUY NOXON MEMORIAL H'CAP CHASE (AM-

ATEURS) (CLASS E) £5,000 3m 1f 110yds Pen Value £3,730

ATELRES) (CLASS E) £5,000 3m 1f 110 yrds Pen Value £3,730

1 3442F SUNLEY BAY (7) (CD) (BF) M/s M G Barber) P Nathols 10 12 0 M/s M F R Muttal (7)

2 FP-405P GNAS A BUCK (£4) (C) (D) ft Costello D Esworth 13 11 9 M/s R Muttal (7)

3 3445F POLAR REGION (730) (c Marrier) N Henderson 10 11 8 M/s C Vigurs (7)

4 40-4226 SOME DAY SOOM (£9) ft Rovel) M Bradstock 11 11 4 M/s R Barban (7)

5 3PFO-96 BRAU BABILLAND (£9) ftat C LA Peterson P Nichols 8 11 4 M/s R Barban (7)

5 3PFO-96 BRAU BABILLAND (£9) ftat C LA Peterson P Nichols 8 11 4 M/s R Barban (7)

5 2211-22 BECTORY GARDEN (£4) (Lord Cadegout T Horson T 11 4 M/s R Barban (7)

7 F315-15 FULL OF FIRE (£0) () Macheel Solvents (£4) Ni Lampard (10 10 11 M/s P Barban (7)

9 65P5-24 SELVERINO (£4) (E) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 230-31P GOOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 230-31P GOOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 111-100 GLEN MIRRASE (£2) (1) Combel M Comme 11 10 2 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 270-31P GOOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 270-31P GOOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 270-31P GOOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

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10 270-32P GOOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 270-32P GROOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M Rinnel (5)

10 270-32P GROOD RISHERY (£5) (Rev) Nodi C Brooks 8 10 8 M/s M

3.30 TERENCE BRADY & CHARLOTTE BINGHAM LIMITED HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 2m Penalty Value £6,710

\*\*A deplared - \*\*

\*\*BETTING: evens Easthorpe, 9-4 Northern Saddler, 11-4 Barud Boy, 6-1 Mister Odny

\*\*1995; Medinas Swan Song 7-10 7-A Tory 3-1-R Hodges 6 ran

\*\*FORM GUIDE

EASTHORPE's remarkable run reached six on the spin when he held Storm Alert at Sandown 19 days ago. That was probably his best performance yet and there is every chance of the spree continuing in this immited handicap, Barma Boy's connections will be hoping this is third-time fucky, because blunders at the last two fences he has jumped have proved costly. This former smart hundler's jumping deteriorated after he had made a winning start to his chasing coreer and his blunder at the final lence at Wordester in November let in Northern Saddler for success. Having failed to get beyond the first at Kempton on Findey, Barna Boy's confidence could still be fragile and Northern Saddler is the safer oppon. This game and genume performer go, the better of Zajira and old rival Mister Oddy at Ascor lest time. Selection: EASTHORPE

4.00 POTTERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £2,478

Athanum weight: 10st. The handkup regists Durie 9st 13th, Persistent Gurner 9st 12th, Mayfield Park 9st 12th, Billy Banter 9st 10th, Coeur Battern 9st.

BETTINE: 5-1 Cardig Dancer, 7-1 Landeleur Physio, 6-1 Foxfrot Rousen, Mr Playfiell, 10-1 Ace Player, Royal Piper, Paraistent Gunner, 12-1 others

1998: Royal Piper, Paraistent Gunner, 12-1 others

1998: Royal Piper 8 10 11 A Tory 16-1 Mrs. J Rattine Barons, 18 mn
FORMM 62 mms

er, Royal Piper, Persistent Gumer, 12-1 others
1996: Royal Piper 8 10 11 A Tory 16-1 (Mrs J Retrine-Barons 18 an
FORMI GUIDE
Lausdowne, who is strugging at present, has had a change of stables, it may make a
difference, though one of the few showing improvement is the novice PODCIROT ROWEO,
keeping on in that behind Spanking Yaenim over a furiong and a half less at Warwick less
time. The extra distance should help and he is on a fair weight for his first handloup.
Although Royal Piper has a stone more to shoulder than when successful in this race
last year, he is in better form than 12 mornths ago and the opposition ran't quite es
strong, A promising thaird to Keara' at Chepstow in November was followed by him being
touched off by Tour Leader at Taunton, so it would be no surprise if he won again.
Landsteer Pryde's sole stoccess was in a marres' event over the course and distance on
sort gound last February. She has reaced only ones since then, however, and will need to
nun up to that form. The ground was noting fast when Sithet Strandard won over this trup
at Strationt in October – Royal Piper back in seventh on his first race of the season – but
the also has wenting form on this easier surface. Three makes in testing conditions at
Townesser last turne was probably stretching his scarma and he is not without a chance
here. Sufficiable keep relaging away and was beginning to make ground at the finish over
two and a half furlongs less at Taunton last Thursday. The grey was crute smart in this day
and capable of nurrang and a place. Best longshot could be BBilly Barter, who made
much more of a show at Townester last turne and may do better getting weight in a
handicap. Selection: FOXTROT ROMEO

\_\_\_\_M A Fitzgerald \_\_\_T Descombs (5) \_\_\_Mr J Codoty (7)

... A P McCon

...J Frod S Borroug Describe (5

\_\_\_\_\_G Upton
\_\_\_\_\_M A Fitzgerald
\_\_\_\_\_W McFarland
\_\_\_\_\_R Davis

Europe's two top middle-distance races for horses of all ages, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, have had contrasting fortunes with spon-

3.00 Suntey Bay 3.30 Northern Saddler (nb)

4.00 Carrig Dancer

sors this week. The Longchamp race will be in need of a new sponsor next year because of Granada's takeover of Forte, who have backed the race for the last two years. Granada are

obliged to continue the sponsorship of this year's race, but will not continue thereafter. De Beers, sponsors of the

increased their backing of the

Ascot race by £20,000 to £360,000. The additional support of the racecourse will ensure that it joins the Derby in King George for 25 years, have a club of two as British races with £1/2m in prize-money.

10 620236 WALISKY (50) R Les 6 10 12 P MicLoughla 11 65-0255 CAPTAIN MARMANA (40) 0 Thom 7 10 6 S. Nicholl 12 0P-0523 WOODE WONDER (52) M Bracistock 6 10 6 P Hulley 13 IP GREENWAY LADY (57) (0) Mex A Embarcock 4 10 5 P Runs 14 POO PERSTY BOSS (18) N Veston-Daves 4 10 0 C University 15 0PO LAAL (12) M Berraciough 4 10 0 Aus Shokell 16 declared 15 declared 16 Microway weight: 10st. Rus handless weight Fessy Boss 2er 9to, Last 9st 4th. BETTRIX: 9-2 King's Gold, 5-1 Dominos Ring, 7-1 Mill O'The Rogs, 8-1 Wissee Wooder, 10-1 Biotechnom Bard, Lord Weilington, 12-1 others HUNTINGDON HYPERION 12.50 Tim 1.20 Music Master 1.50 Hawaiian Sam 2.20 Whispering Court 2.50 Act The Wag 3.20 PETTAUGH (nap) 3.50 Eez-Away 4.20 The

GODNG: Cood to Soft (Soft in places).

Right-hand, Irvel course, ftur-in (200yds.)

Racecourse is at junction of A1 and A6(1), Huntingdon railway station (service from London, King's Cross) is 1 mile away. AD-MISSION: Members \$12; Tattersalis 58; Course \$4. CAR SIS RACING

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG-DINTANCE BUNNERS: Johns The Boy (3.20) has been sett. 210 miles by N Mason from Crook, Co Durham; Grand Cru (12.50) & Bradijan (3.20) have been sent 186 miles by Mrs M Reveley from 1250 OFFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

Т.	<u> </u>	(DIV I) £3,200 added 2m 110yds	13	A*39-24	- 13 declared -
	12143	TIM (20) (CD) ) Jenions 6 11 12 Railton	BE	TING: 2-1	Go Bellistic, 11-4 Act The Wag, 3-1 Hebrideau, 7-1 Do Right-
	00-	ALLEGON LAD (326) R Spear 5 11 5 E Husband (8)	ly,	20-1, Do B	e Have, Sedge Warbler, 25-1 others
	OM66	ODCITION HILL (8) R Dicher 8 11 5 Doubtful			
	6P:0	FRANK KNOWS (40) T George 6 11.5R Johnson (3)	-		SAPLEY CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HUR-
		GRAND CRU (58) (8F) Mrs M Paveley 5 11 5	- 13	3.201	SHIPLE I COMPITIONARY HAVE HOW
	40-0	LETS BE FINANK (71) C Elsey 5 11 5P Holley			DLE (CLASS F) £2,850 2m 5f 110yds
	36	MY CHEEKY MAN (20) O Nicholson 5 11 5 W Marston	1		CAN CAN CHARLE (49) (BF) J Pearce 6 12 0 Aspell
	3-	POINTED REMARK (258) N Herrierson 5 11 5.J R Kavanagh	2	234005/	SRZADJAN (675) Mrs M Reveley 6 11 9
0	P3300-	SABBAQ (353) Mrs 6 Lamyman 8 11 5	3	P301-15	JOHNS THE BOY (75) N Mason 10 11.8, S Haworth (7)
)		SHANNON LAD (40) A Carmil & 11 5	4	007-6050	PLY BY NORTH (19) O Nicholson 8 11 8 X Alapseu (10)
	0	SUAS LEAT (75) J M Jefferson 6 11.5 M Dever	5	2F0P-6P	NORTHERN SQUIRE (20) J Jefferson B 11.5 M Newton (7)
2		THE PALADIN A TUTNET 8 11 5	8		INNOCENT PRINCESS (645) (D) A James 9 11 0 G Tormey
•	0-1P	WALDE MUSIC (75) CBrooks 8 11 5	7	00-4505	PLATO'S REPUBLIC (47) (C) J Jenkins 5 10 13 S Fox (3)
	0000-0	BEL PROMISE (19) P Webber 7 11 0	8	P-31544	PETTAUGH (10) 6 Hubbard 8 10 12
,		LANOTA (257) C Jores 8 11 0	9		DERRONG BRIDGE (14) (D) Mrs 5 Johnson 610 12
•		MENELAVE (36) O Sterwood 8 11 0 Outcome			
,	00-0	REO DANCER (14) H Oliver 7 11 0	10	6600-61	CAMERO (8) (D) M Banks 10 10 12 (6ex)
		- 17 declared	11	4P0P4/0	MORE OF IT (10) M Roberts 11 10 10
т	NG: 7-2	Manager, 6-1 Tire, My Charley Man, 7-1 Polyand Remark.	12		ALASKAN HER MAI A Smaler 5 100 A Lawerte

8-1 The Palacia, Grand Crs. 10-1 Wilde Macic, 36-1 others

10	20	OFFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,200 added 2m 110yds
i 1	62-P136	WAREN WARRIER (20) (D) Mes P Robeson 6 11 7 M Richards
1 2 3	0-0	DANCING RANGER (55) Mea S Wilton 5 11 5 Bury Lyons.
l š		FRED JEFFREY A Turnel 5 11 5S McMail
4	200	GENERAL MCKIE (14) J Giford 6 11 5
6	1	GRACEFIELD (79) N Chance 6 11 5
1 6		LELEY STAR R Strong: 6 11 5 Mr J Rees
17	0	RESMARE KING (64) A Carrol 6 11 5
8	PO-	LOCH GARMAN (378) F Murphy 6 11 5P Carbony
9		MUSIC MASTER C Egyton 6 11,5
10	0	SHALEK (54) O Brennan 6 11 5S O'Downell (7)
11	00/0	SEVER SUMAL (14) H Ower 7 11 5
12	00	WOODYOU (59) F Jorden 6 11 5 Indides
13	0	COOL MANDY (36) R Price 5 11 0
14	0₽	LAUY HIGH SHEREF (59) T Foosier 6 11 O
15		SONG EXPRESS / Booley 8 11 0M Booley
16		THE COVENTRY FLYER (66) N South 7 11 0 Mr All Rodde
17	240	GOLDWYN (35) Bob Jones 4 10 7
l .		- 17 declared -
RE	TING- 9-2	Gracefield A.1 Music Master Fred Jeffrey 7.7 Ween Way.

Del Live: 9-2 Gracouski, 8-1 milioc peasier, 1700 Jet Dior, 8-1 General Jackie, 16-1 Goldwyn, 20-1 others 1.50 CLAUDE BANKS 70TH BIRTHDAY N CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 adds

110yds

ı	1	0-64313	FIERCE (13) (D) J Jenkins 8 11 11
	2	43454-0	ANOTHER VENTURE (41) F Murphy 6 11 4 P Carbarry
	3	410-3FP	
	ĩ		CHIAPPLICCI (16) MIS E Heath 6 11 4R Supple
	5		COPPER CARLE (16) C Street 9 11 4
	Б	2-D103F	HAMMANAN SAM (22) A fumel 8 11 4
	7	6/5F45-P	NIGHT FANCY (56) Mis A Woodrow 8 11 4 A McCarthy
ı	8	45323/2	SUPER COIN (13) R Lee 8 11 4 P McLoughin
	_		-8 declared -
	_		
	誑	17PME 5-4	Super Color, 9-4 Haprellan Sans, 7-1 Flerce, 8-1 Barton San-
	10	10-1 April	her Yesture, 14-1 Chiespucci, 20-1 others
	_		
	17	200	YELLING NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE
	14	2.ZU I	101 100 5 00 000 11-10 110
	ᆮ		YELLING NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m 110yds
	1		LORD WELLINGTON (6) J January 5 11 10
	_		
	2	010-623	KING'S GOLD (22) Mrs L Richards 6 11 8 M Richards

POS BOLD AMRISEMENT (13) W Currengham 6 11 3....... N Se 00-472 BASSEPHALLY (12) Mar P Sy 6 11.3 R Markey 5P515-1 MBLL O'THE RASS (77) (0) Mar 0 Hoter 7 11 0 -6 Hogen (3) 05-5 JACK LEADER (82) Mar 1 Coal 5 10 13 R Coal 6 10 4 To Coal 6 10 13 R Coal 6 10 13 R

") AND GIRD	1
Domesti (7)	2 45103-4 REJOHNUS (63) (D) J Quant 11 11.8
equi Oliver	0-111P6 EEZ-AWAY (36) (D) 7 Forster 7 11 3
J Lodder	4 6/43UF1- MANN SPLASH (313) (0) 5 Earle 9 11 1
McLoughin:	5 43/1/FU WYLAM (6) 1 6/10rd 9 10 1
A Thomston	5 5F4P-20 PERMARINE (42) (D) Mrs A Woodrow 13 10 0 A McCarthy
M Bosley	4P.774 YOOKA FIZZ (44) R Rows 11 10 0
r All Rodde	- 7 declared -
C (Lioundly)	Milmum weight: 10st. True hundicap weight: Pegmanne 9st 8tb, Voctor Fizz 9st 7tb.
Wed War-	SETTING: 6-4 Rejoinus, 7-2 Manual Splasts, 9-2 Eaz-Awey, 7-1 Wylam, 12-
	1 Sure Metal, Permarine, 16-1 Vodka Fizz
NOVICE	4.20 HUNTINGDON MAIDEN OPEN NH FLAT
ed 2m	4.20 RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 2m 110yds
	0- 90MGROVE MAN (329) ) Du 6 115
Ospouno C	2 32 BRAMLEY MAY (20) R Williams 6 11 5 S Keighney
P Carberry	4 PERRIERS (35) Mrs P Sty 5 11 5
Railton	PRIST INSTANCE O Greek 6 11 5
K Supple	5 FLYTRIG FIXIPLER (36) M Roberts 5 11.5
.M Ranger	2- GOVERNOR DANKEL (304) J O'Shee 5 11, 5
_i, itervey	MELLERSFORD N Gaselee 5 11 5
McCarthy	RATHREAL M Hesson-Files 5 11 5
lcLoughtin	ROYAL RAVEN J Grient 5 11 5 P Hade
	0 8 SER DANTE (44) R Rows 5 11 5
aton \$25-	L1 50 SMART LORD (54) 1 Bosley 5 11 5
	2 O THE TOISEACH (47) (BF) J Fanshave 5 11 S
	3 5 COMPUTERAID LADY (48) R Curos 8 11 0
	C COOR CONTRACTOR MALES LAND

5 COMPUTERAID LADY (48) R Curts 8 11 0... 0 GOOD GOING GAME (21) W Jerks 5 11 0... O MESP (40) JO'Shes 5 11 0 ..... O AYDISUN (21) G Bravery 4 10 7 FERN GROVE C Wolfran 4 10 T REPEAT OFFER P Cundel 4 10 SWYNFORD PRIDE J Bottomley 4 10 T DANGO MAN R Price 4 10 T SHADY EMIGA F Jordan 4 10 2 -

DETTING: 3-1 Bramboy May, 3-1 Governor Davict, 11-2 The 7ejsoncia, 1 Royal Roman, 8-1 Burgrive Man, 10-1 Computeraid Lady, 12-1 other

# 1995: Esscouleyou 7 11 5 R Greene 2-1 (Mrs.) Revines-80rms) 19 ran FORM GUIDE If you ugnore the Lungfield run five weeks ago of former point-to-power LETS RUMBLE— which is probably wise considering the state of the ground that day – then he has a very good chance of opening his account under Rules. Apart from winning between the flags last season, he also ran second to the smart See More Business and showed plently of primise when splitting Ubu Val timpressive winner at Folkestone positerizary of subsequent scorer Church Law in a strongly-run noxice chase at Windsor in November. My Main Main has hos won his last four starts between the flags but nos had nearly a year off since his only start last season. It remains to be seen whether he can bridge the gop between point-to-point and novice chaser. Samilee has faired fairly well over hundles since his one try in a point-to-point in 1994, He comes here in good form after running What's your Story to two lengths in a Haydock stayers hundle last time out and has every chance if he takes to tenues at the first time of asking. The only possible thing against him is much the has looked a tricky ride on occasions. Graphic Designer made a primising start over hundles at Ascot. He looks the part for chasing, though so far he nasn't had much tack, being hampered at Folkestone and then failing at Fontwell, Duke Of Lamoaster's jumping has let him down since being second to The Bud Club in a stowly-run nowce chase at Utroater and Price's Mill should have a better chance. He won a point-to-point in Ireland in 1994 and has shaped like a real stayer in his three nars over here. The Lamoer also won an firsh point-to-point two years ago. Selection: LETS RUMBLE. 2.30 TOTE BETTENG SHOP HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m Pensity Value £2,863 120-500 AMANCIO (USA) (12) (D) (Faul H Locke) G Harwood 5 12 0\_

1 120-500 AMANCIO (USA) (12) (D) (Paul H Lode) 6 Harvood 5 12 0 MA Fitzgeath 2 230000 FERN MY (7) (D) (Germa Associates) R Storage 8 12 0 R Strengte 1793-10 CABDCHON (29) (D) (Let. N. Josepha R Fiors 9 11 12 J Front 255-005 STATALICK (45) (CD) (Ms M E Stede) 0 Elsenth 8 11 9 A Proctor (3) 553-00 STATALICK (45) (CD) (Ms M E Stede) 0 Elsenth 8 11 9 A Proctor (3) 534-411 TERREN (FIQ (5) (D) (G) (Smort Sarabuny) T Forster 5 11 9 (Sex) A P WaCOy 5 553-00 SMUGSLER'S PORTE (USA) (LO) (D) (Afron Hickey) R O'Sulfiers 8 11 8 B Powell 5 553-00 MORSTOCK (12) (CD) (Nr M Tantam) R Hodge 6 11 6 T Descente (3) 312-41 PETITISAN (63) (D) (Proc Trovas Wilsons) 0 Buchel 5 11 0 J Buchel 9114-41 Petitisan (63) (D) (Proc Trovas Wilsons) 0 Buchel 5 11 0 J Buchel 11 6 Telencia, 4-1 Statispick, 5-1 Morstock, 8-1 Amencia, 8-1 Keep Me in Mort, 10-1 Petitisan 13-1 Tenn Isou 18-1 others

titions, 12-1 Years Jay, 16-1 others 1995: The Caumtue 7 10 12 A P McCoy 5-1 (G Balding) 11 ran

FOLKESTONE

1.20: 1. MIROSWANI (S.Ryar) 6-4 lev. 2. Mead Court 33-1: 3. Naturanal 50-1. 19 ran. 20, 2. (R. Aleiturst). Totas: £2.30; £1.10. £17.20, £9.80. Dual Forecast: £69.80. CSF:

1.50; 1. LIBU VAL (A5 Smoth) 11.8 km, 2 Octain Lender 7.2; 3. Ojonnyo 33-1.13 ran-15; 11. (W Bethell). Tothe: £1.90; £1.00, £1.90, £12.90. DF; £6.50. CSF: £6.74, £36.92; 2.20; 1. MORTH BARNINSTER (AP McCoy) 8-1; 2. Openicada 4-1 fa; 3. kis Grand 5-1; 4. Celtic Lilling 33-1. 17 ran. ns. 12. (T Mc-Govern). Tothe: £13.70; £2.50; £1.70; £1.40, £10.80. DF; £11.10, CSF: £43.50. Treast: £172.69; £1.80; £1.90;

2.50: 1. HAWTHORNE GLEN (6 Fenton 5-1; 2. Arctin Life 9-2; 3. Flour de 7al 15-2, 12 ran. 4-1 im Binerische Brig (pulled un). 2.9. (Ars M Long), Tolan 17-30; 22-60, 63-20, 52-20, Dr. 515-60, CSF: £28-55, Tricast £161-10. Tric; £61-20.

RACELÎNE

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168

W'CANTON (10) (20) (30)

HUNT'DON 102 202 302

LINGFIELD 103 203 303 IRISH 120 220 320

IRISH

THORNE BLEN (B Fenton) 5

£172.49, Teo: £133.30.

RACING RESULTS

3.20: 1. EARLY DRINKER U.A. McCarthy
4 for 2. Drumcullen 14-1: 3. Precious 3.20: 1. Straincillen 14-1; 2. Precious Wonder 40-1.16 ren. 12, 30. (O Shenwood). Tota: £2.20: £1.20. £7.40, £19.50. DF: £33.00. £5: £23.46. Tro: £264.30. 3.50: 1. HARVEST VIEW (G Bradley) 13-9.50: 1. HARVEST VIEW (6 Bradley) 13-2. Indian Summit 9-2, 2. What's The Joine 10-1: 11 ran. 11-4 for Dark Nightangale (ps). 15: 10. (C Brooks). Totar: £10.30; £3.20. £1.10. £2.80. DF: £28.90. CSF: £35.46 Trac £72.10. Treast: £271.17. NR: Fly in Amber. 4.20: 1. MacSTRO Pall. (bir P O'Reaffe) 20-12. Rhoman Fan 25-1; 3. Opaf's Tenspot 16-1; 4. Cool Character 12-1: 1.6 ran. 4-1 total Cool New Secon Brad System of co fans Le Chet Nor, Rocco, Royal Square, nk. 15. (I Gifford), Tota: £26,80; £7.10, £3.70, £4.00, £2.90, OF: £169.50, CSF: £410.74. Tricast: £1,181.97, NR: 7ncksome. Jackpot: £67.215.10.

NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL 12TH - 13TH - 14TH MARCH 3 DAY BADGE £120 SALES CLOSE JAN 27TH

Place 6: £112.26. Place 5: £45.67

- (01242) 226226 -CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE

SEDGEFIELD 1.10: 1. BALHERMOCH (I. Wyer) 2-1: 2. Weich Mill 8-11 (av. 3. General Ambo 25-1. 13 ran. nk. 15: (A M Essenty, Makan). Totas: (3.50; 51.10, 51.30, 518.70. Df: 51.10. CSF: £4.24. Tno: £18.20. NR: High-mod Miller. land Way, 140; 1. ORCHIDARMA (M Dwyer) 9-1; 2. Wild Rose of York 5-1; 3. Victories Taltituger 5-2 izs; 4. Thomas Rand T-1 . 17 ran. 3, 7. II Quare, Mahmal, Totae £15.30; 52.40, 51.80. £1.70, £1.80. DF: 537.40, CSP; £60.44, Tricast: £1.45.22, Tric: £31.60, NR:

2.10: 1 GENERAL'S ORDERS (W Fw) T-2\_10: 1\_GENERAL'S ORDERS (W Fo) T2\_2\_Sonderland Echo 8\_13 tev. 3, Roy Boy
2\_0-1\_14 pian. 1-2\_nk. U Normo, Barnsley).
Foto: 15\_30: £1\_40, £1\_10, £4\_70. DF:
2\_5\_5\_0. £5\_30. Fine: £6\_30.
2\_40: 1\_CALI THE SHOTS (K lones) 153\_52. 2\_60 SRby 7-2; 3\_Finch's Gem 3-1
3\_12m. 2\_30. (U Vante, Fenylall, Totas £2\_80.
£1\_40, £1\_20, £1\_30. DF: £4\_70. CSF:
£1\_0.06. Inc: £2\_70.
3\_10: 1\_TRESSDOER (R Gammyi 7-1; 2\_Doutford Hut.6-1; 3\_Kenndabil 12-1, 12-ran.
4-1\_R last Brar's Delett & Fash of Realm

Doublord Hut 6-1: 3. Kennotabil 12-1. 12 ran. 4-1 ft has Brar's Delgit 8. Fissh of Realm (Sth. 6. 4. (M. W. Easterby, Sherifi Hutton). Total: 58.00; 53.00, 52.20, 52.90. DF: 541.20. CSF. E63.01. Tincest: 5625.49. Ten. 54.2.10. 3.40: 1. NEW CHARGES /B Grattam 6-1: 2. Golden Nugget 4-1; 3ar; 3. High Pen-howe 4-1; faz. 10 ran, 13, 6, /P Beaumont,

Brandsbyr, Total: £7.60; £2.70, £2.40, £1.60, DF: £16.10, CSF: £30.59, Tno: £12.20. Trass: £101.75. 4.10: 1 MEADOWEURN (7 Rest) 5-1; 2. Deny's Delight 12-1; 3. Miss Lamplight 10-1. 17 ran, evers for Gallery Delight (5th). 3-p. 1%. (W Reed, Hestern). Tate: £3.60; £1.40, £2.30, £4.30. DF: £9.90. CSF: £69.99. NR: Decent Perry. Placepot: £75.10. @mslpot: £19.60. Place &: £21.68. Place 5: £17.66. WOLVERHAMPTON

WOLVERNAMPTON
2.00: 1. FARMOST (C Nutter) 4-7 for; 2.
Dammer Golf Time 3-1: 9. Consequents Here
50-1. 13 rest. 4-, 6. (Sir Mark Prescot). Totac
£1-80: £1.0, £1-20, £53.20. DF: £3.40. CSF.
£3.37. True: £103.30.
2.300: 1. RAMBO WALTZER (Alex Greeves).
5-1: 2. Berge 5-4 for; 3. Evened: 3-1. 11
zen. nk, 1-c. (D Nichright). Totac £10.50; £4.10,
£1-10. £1.00. DE: £3.20. CSF. £13.55. [or. £1.10, £1.90, DF: £8.30, CSF: £13.55, Tno:

£8.00.

3.00: 1. FIELD OF VISION U Weaver 81; 2. Maple Bay 5-2 fav; 3. Vinteryn 9-2. 12
ren, hd, 2-b. (M. Johnston, Tota: £10.70;
£3.20, £1.90, £3.30. OF: £38.50. CSF
£31.50. Tresst: £102.94. Tro: £31.30. NR

231.50. Tracest: £102.94. Tro: £31.30. NR: Desert Power.
2.30: 1. CHINA CASTLE (/ Forume) 9-4;
2. Theatre Magic T-1: 3. Lady Dignity 10-19 em. 7-4 ian Domort. 1:a., 1:a. (Physiam). Totar £3.80: £1.40, £3.20, £3.50. DF;
£16.00. CSF: £20.03. Tracest: £133.01. Tro: £24.60.
4.00: 1. STEVIE'S WONDER (G Bardwell) evers far, 2. Fraise of R Rol £-1; 3. El Nido 7-2. £1 ran. Nd. 20. (M Ryan). Totar £2.10; £1.20. £2.20. £1.90. DF: £12.70. ESF: £11.78. Tro: £4.80. NR: Castle Secret.
4.30: 1. CHADWELL HALL (C Teague) 5-1; 2. King Rembo 10-1; 3. Featherstone Lane 8-1. £1 ran. 7-2 fav Southern Domoron (£m). 2. 1:a. 15 Bowrng). Totar £8.40; £2.10. £6.40, £2.30. DF: £54.40. CSF: £58.06. Tracest: £384.36. Tro: £73.00. Placesport £18.50. Quedipot £14.10. Place £: £36.92. Place 5: £30.77.

#### LINGFIELD

HYPERION 1.40 Royal Print 2.10 Mr Nevermind 2.40 Last But Not Least 3.10 Double-O-Seven 3.40 Rakis 4.10 Total Rach

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 5f & 1m omside, remainder inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f.

Left-hand, sharp course (Equitatek surface).

Course is south east of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: All enclosures 59. CAR PARK: Club 53; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Donis (1.40), Good So Fa (1.40). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Carrolls Mare (1.40) won here on Thursday; Raids (3.40) & Royal Circus (1.40) both won here on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Second Colours (2.10) has been sent 280 miles by Mrs M Reveley from Lingdale, (Reveland, Donbis-O-Sewen (3.10) sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, North Yorkshire.

1.40 THATCHER LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,700 added 1m 4f 

SETTING: 4-1 Poyal Circus, 9-2 NR Ferm Dencer, 9-1 Carrolle Marc, 7-1 Budiess Fentasy, 9-1 See Yor Again, Sansher, 9-1 Doein, 12-1 others

[	2.10	GLADSTONE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added 1m
1	00211-2	MR NEVERMAND (7) (CO) G L Moore 6 9 5 A Lakamen (7) 8
2	11632-0	SECOND COLOURS (15) (C) (D) Mrs M Reveley 8 9 3
3	1121-13	SPENCER'S REVENGE (10) (ID) (BF) M Ryan T 8 13
4	22402-3	FRESH FROM DAILY (21) P Kelloway 4 8 12 R Cochrane 1
5	4/500000-	WHITE HEAT (108) W Turner 494C Adamson (5) 3
6	00:655-0	THOUNY BISHOP (14) (C) 1 Succes 5 8 3 Quies 4
T		BLRNT SERVA (16) (D) J Moore 480M Baird (S) 7
8		OFF THE AIR (E) (D) 8 Lieuchyn 580N Carfolo 2
		- 8 declared -
BΕ	TENG: 2-1.	Spencer's Reveage, 9-4 Mr Nevermind, 4-1 Fresh Fruit Dai-
		Colours, 12-1 Off The Air, 20-1 Burnt Sleans, 25 others

2.40 MACHILLAN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,650 added 3YO 5f 25451-3 GI JA HOGH (23) (CD) J Berry 9 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A McGlone 3 55430-2 SUNSET HATBOUR (2) 0 Whom 8 11 \_\_\_\_\_ R Cochrane 2 19500-0 CHENCAST (20) (3) 0 Nichols 8 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Greaves 1 0133-24 DANCING JACK (12) (CD) J Bridger 8 10 \_\_\_\_ J Quinn 4 5606 DOUBLE OR BUST (39) A Nescombe 8 1 \_\_\_\_ P Fessey (5) 7

BETTING: 9-4 Last But Not Least, 13-4 Gl Jr High, 7-2 Sunset Harbour, 8-1 Double Or Bust, 13-2 Pancing Jack, 10-1 Gagnjalo, 14-1 Chancest

3.10 DISRAELI MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,450 added 3YO 7f BETTING: 6-4 Rami, 7-4 Double-O-Seven, 7-2 Creeking, 10-1 Alistans Da

3.40 LLOYD GEORGE HANDICAP (CLASS D)

	23/430 Madea /1
Q/40 <b>Q/</b>	ABTAAL (280) (D) R Hoages 6 10 0 S Droute (3) 1
501-111	RAKIS (5) (CD) M Britain 6 10 0 (Sex)
004401-	PRIMA SEX (82) (D) M Ryan 5 9 10T lives 5
2654-24	PERILDUS PLIGHT (7) (CD) (RF) W Nur 5 9 9
	FOUR OF SPADES (5) (CD) P Elens 5 9 7
04021-3	2080 MAGIC (16) (C) (BF) L Montague Hail 4 9 7
	f Egen 2
	- 6 decimed -

BETTING: 7-4 Raids, 3-1 Prices Silt, 9-2 Perilipus Pilght, 13-2 Ab 1 Robo Magic, 8-1 Four Of Spades 4.10 WILSON HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,900 added 1m 2f 

3		ULTRACE WARRIOR (131) (C) CC)2s 6910 Weaver 6
4	0330-00	ILANDRA (14) S Dos 4 9 8 R Cockrane 8
S	10301-3	TOTAL RACH (21) (CD) R ingram 4 9 7
6	5/6000-0	CLAQUE (20) O Chapman 4 9 4 A Cuthere 7
7	005/	PRINCESS PARKOT (573) Lord Huntargion 5 8 13
		Abnee Cook (7) 1
8	04640-3	LUCKY TUCKY (17) J Jenkes 58 13 Fortune 3
9	4113-20	REAL MADRID (3) G Empt. 568 N Admins 10
10	302152-	LADY SABBHA (117) (D) 1/1 Musson 6 8 5P McCathe (3) 6
		SCENT OF POWER (10) N Bactage 6 8 4 F Norton 13
12	000000	ZUNO FLYER (7) A Viorre - 81 M Fenton 2
		HERIZA STORY (LE) (D) N Lamores - 7 10

- 13 declared - Minimum weight 7st 10th. Your Santiap weight 7st 10th. Your Santiap weight, Huma Sant 7st 3th. BETTING: 7-2 Lady Sabina, 9-2 Total Rach, 5-1 Awesome Power, 6-1 Lu Tucky, 8-1 Rael Machid, 10-1 Zimo Piyer, 12-1 Bandra, 14-1 others

# sport

# **Crocks may** hand Asian gold to Els

ANDY FARRELL reports from Singapore

The start of a new season everyone fresh, 1.1 and raring to go. Not quite. Greg Norman is in bed with a chest infection. Sam Torrance has a septic toe and Ian Woosnam's back is still playing up. The 1996 European Tour may be set to go farther affeld than ever before, but it is an expansion of the physiotherapy

One reason Johnnie Walker has continued its connection with the Asian Classic, which usually attracts the world's best players, after pulling out of the World Championship, which did not, is that for superstar golfers Asia in January is a better proposition than Jamaica just before Christmas.

This year's event in Singapore has not gone quite according to plan, Colin Montgomerie, keen to equal Peter Oosterhuis's record of four successive Order of Merit titles, has stayed at home for the hirth of his second daughter, Venetia Grace. Seve Ballesteros is on a five-mouth sabhatical learning how to re-locate a fairway and Jose-Maria Olazabal withdrew because his injured foot means he can still not walk 18 holes,

Playing golf is not the only demand on the top players. There is their second career as course builders. Bernhard Langer broke his journey to open his new design at Lotus Hill in China; Woospam spent the weekend scouting the land for a project in Bangkok and Norman looked in on his work on the first integrated resort and golf course in India. Near Delhi, it is called Sterling Grand, and usually the question is: How many? This is the man who earned \$30m (£20m) from the sale of the equipment com-pany Cobra, in which he bought a \$1.9m stake in 1990.

Norman was feeling ill enough to want to skip the 36hour stopover, but according to his manager. Frank Williams, his manager, Frank Williams, the owner pleaded with him to go. He was given an injection.

a client for the international Management Group, who happen to be promoting the event.

but felt worse and his temper-ature is still in the 100s. "I don't think we have another Phuket." Williams said, referring to when Norman won the same title two years ago after not playing a practice round. "He only has

10 per cent chance of playing. Torrance also missed yesterday's pro-am, but the swelling on his poisoned foot has gone

down and he expects to play. Woosnam has been resting his back since November, but three days' practice have seen it stiffen up again. "I've been swinging badly for a couple of years and that might be the problem. When I aim straight in goes crooked and

when I aim crooked it goes straight, "the Welshman said. All this is good news for Ernie Els, who is confident after winning last week's South African Open the defending champion. Fred Couples and even John Daly, who has given up burgers in a search for the form that made him the Open champion, rather than finishing 45 shots be-hind Couples in Jamaica. While the American Tour

opens with the West Coast swing, the European goes glob-al. First there is this week's Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore, then it is Down Under for the Heineken Classic in Perth next week, before going to South Africa for a further three tournaments. The advantage is that the Tour can provide events at this time of year on good courses in good conditions. This has been in response to criticism from the membership, who sometimes find it hard to say anything nice about their work place. Not at Tanah Merah, which is next door to Changi the airport, not Nick Leeson's current abode. "I can't fault it," Woosnam said.

On the minus side, the reduced entry means no spots for the newcomers to the Tour. While most will make their de-buts in South Africa, Steve Webster, the winner of the qualifying school has received a sponsor's invitation. He has just signed as FA CUP COUNTDOWN: Former Northern Ireland stalwart plots Ipswich's downfall. Phil Shaw reports

# Nicholl waiting for happy hour

Half an hour's satisfaction – that is how Chris Nicholl quantities the week's work as a foothall manager. Always assum-ing, of course, that his Walsail team have won.

If that makes Nicholl sound like the dour antithesis of charismatics like Barry Fry and Ron Atkinson, it is misleading. His manner is quiet but warm and his humour self-deprecating, while his love of the game is reflected in the progressive style on which Walsall will stand or fall at Ipswich in the fourth round of the

FA Cup on Saturday.

It is just that Nicholl believes running a team to be more stressful than people imagine, and prefers plain speaking to wisecracking as a method of

'I think I did a good job at Southampton, and as time goes by I have to say it looks a better job'

articulating his view. Asked how he filled in the days during the three years between leaving Southampton and resurfacing at Walsali, he replies: "I enjoyed myself."

Yet all the time he was desperate to jump back in, and he still has ambitions to manage a Premiership club. Why? Again he shrugs and smiles. "Mad."

There must be a method to this madness. Last season, his first at the Bescot Stadium, Nicholl took Walsall up to the Second Division. Although below half-way, they are only three points away from the play-off places and well clear of the bottom-four herth they occupied in late October.

None of which is remarkable until you consider that Walsall had previously won



Chris Nicholl, whose Walsall side travel to Portman Road in the FA Cup on Saturday

of Aston Villa, Wolves and Birmingham, Nicholl has yet to pay so much as a pound in transfer fees. He is tickled to learn that even the famous Saddlers' side of 63 years ago, who beat Arsenal in arguably the greatest Cup upset of all, cost £70 to assemble.

But then Nicholl, a former Villa and Northern Ireland centre-half who will be 50 in Octoher, had already demonstrated at the highest level his ability to survive - and more -on a shoestring. The young tal-ents he blooded at The Dell in-

and Neil Ruddock.

"I think I did a good job at Southampton," he says, "and as time goes by I have to say it looks a better job. We never fin-ished below 14th, we were a decent team who scored goals, and I left them with some good young players as well as in a

healthy state financially. One assumes he was hitter about the way it ended. "Ahsolutely not. Bitterness is a wasted emotion that could drive you round the bend. The promotion only four times. Or cluded Alan Shearer, Matthew that in 17 months at a club surrounded by the big spenders Kenna. Among those he we've just

bought, for a total of £1m, wrong but they put up with me were Tim Flowers, Barry Horne for six years. That was long enough for anybody. They wanted a change and they were

right to do it." Nicholl is clearly not one to inclulge in platitudes. He admits, for instance, that although he enjoyed the leisure time, he had hegun "to doubt everything, including myself" before he was invited to succeed Kenny Hibbitt at Walsall (where, revealingly, he is the 34th manager in 68 seasons). Nor has his modest success altered his feelings about his profession.

"Managing is a very stress-

cation syndicate.

won four in a row and not conceded a goal - on Saturday evening you get half an hour of satisfaction. Then the physio comes in and says so and so's got a bad knee and you find another player's going to be sus-pended. It's then that the worries start to build up for the

"What screws you up is that there's no physical outlet for the tension. The players get their high from running around. We get the adrenalin but we lose control the moment they run out of the dressing-room. And if one of your players isn't feel-ing right or the referee doesn't like you that day, you're in

trouble no matter what work you've done in the week."

The closest he has been to the FA Cup final, the event which hooked him on football, was in 1986 in his first season in charge of Southampton. They took a Double-bound Liverpool to extra time in the semi-final remembered for the horrific hroken leg suffered by the Saints' Mark Wright.

This time last year, Walsall led Leeds 1-0 in the third round hefore conceding an equaliser three minutes from time. They then forced the additional half-hour at Elland cedes, "we tired and they swamped us". Road before, as Nicholl con-

This season's run includes, bizarrely. an 8-4 win over Torquay on a frost-affected

198

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les for New

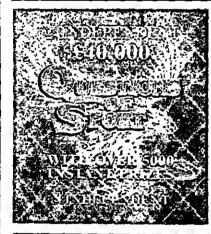
'Managing is a very stressful job. What screws you up is there's no physical outlet for the tension

surface, during which Nicholl lost track of the score. Walsali have since tightened up consideranty, an improve-ment to which Derek Mountfield - an FA Cup winner with Everton - has made a major contribution since arriving from Carlisle.

Nicholl had expected to be renewing acquaintance with Shearer et al on Saturday (as did Blackburn, the champions having somewhat prematurely sent Walsall their tickets for Ewood Park before losing a home replay to First Division Ipswich). "In theory, it gives us a better chance. he says. "Still a small chance, but a better one than we'd have had at Blackburn."

The Cup is no place for half-measures. If Walsali win this one, expect Nicholl to relent and enjoy a full hour's satisfaction before the pres-

# **Questions of Sport**



### £40,000 to be won

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000.

You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. The card contains eight games so you can play daily through to Friday 26 January. This Saturday in The Independent we will give you a new Questions of

As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000 to be won.

HOW TO PLAY

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Thursday 25 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A. B and C. Scratch off your answer to Ouestion Nineteen either A,B or C in the Q19 column then repeat for Q20 and Q21.

THE QUESTIONS Q19 In which sport is the America's Cup a major troptsy? A: Baseball B: Sailing C: Ice hockey

Q20 What is the distance of the **Grand National?** A: Three miles 8: Five miles

C; Four and a half miles

C: Eric Cantona

**Q21** Which footballer currently playing in the Promiership won three Promiership / First Division winners' medals in succession? A: Alan Shearer B: David Batty

IMPORTANT Scratch off ONE letter only for each

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If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed, if your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an asterisk. HOW TO CLAIM

IF you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of

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Supercigs, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper Shop.

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Sport claims, PO Box 60, Bumley, **RULES AS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED** 

- INDEPENDENT

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#### Smith back on Olympic course sors, Tag Heuer; and the managers of the Swedish EF Eduwere not putting in as much time now, and again at the second reas the Americans, who may be gatta in March, to secure the

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Miami

Lawrie Smith. Britain's most highly paid and high profile sailor, who already has an Olympic medal, is back on the treadmill here. Today sees the first race in the first of two trial regattas to select Britain's 1996 representatives in the stately

Star class of two-man keelboat. Smith is also planning a summer campaign in two kinds of spectacular boats that are as far removed as possible from the Star - the Ultra 30 and the Australian 18-foot skiff. He is also talking to three possible backers of the 1997-98 Whitbread race attempt: the amhitious Emirate of Dubai; Chris Dickson's spon-

based arms race, against the best in the world. Smith spent part of November and December in the cold and miserable Solent assessing with crew Chris Mason and coach Bill Edgerton the

And he continues steadfast-

ly to resist the attentions of this

September's Grand Mistral

round the world race organisers

So why does he still want to

to skipper one of their boats.

compete in the Olympics? The

irresistible drug is the pure test

of skill, rather than a budget-

merits of various different sails on offer for a campaign being financed, with "just about enough to cover it", by the Rockport boat shoe company. Even then, be concedes they

vannah in July.

The remaining two hig Olympic testing grounds are at Hyères, France, in April and Medemblik, the Netherlands, m May. But both will be academic for Smith if he does not perform well enough in Miami

as the Americans, who may be out five days a week. And he British place. knows he can now be in the Australian sunshine not only for some skiff sailing but a likely sub-

The uncertainty shows. "Who do you think will win?" he asks anyone who will listen. Up stantial boost to his bank balance. against him are the Barcelona Smith is apprehensive, surpair, David Howlett and Phil rounded as he is by Olympic Laurence, Soling contender Glyn Charles with George Sksquad members from many of oudos, Stuart Hudson with the major European countries and the US at the Coral Recf David Munge, and the Hicks Yacht Cluh, one of five which brothers, Michael and David. hosts the 10 classes of Olympic

Smith should he the favourite. His Barcelona bronze was in the Soling and another in the Star would be reward enough. But he likes an edge, a perceptible advantage, and he has yet to achieve that. Money will not huy it, talent plus a flatout campaign may see him through. That is, if he can first clear the selection hurdle.

#### SPORTS LETTERS

Levy on transfers

From Mr M Shackel Sir: I do not believe for one moment that the majority of rugby clubs wish to turn hack the clock and halt the move to professionalism.

Surely the election of Cliff Brittle was a signal that there is more to the world of rugby than the top 11 clubs and the national squad, important though they are to the game, and to the media.

What the middle and lower order clubs (as supposedly represented by Mr Brittle) want to hear is some encouragement from the RFU and perhaps a decent share in the projected bonanza should it ever materialise.

There are various ways in which a desirable fostering of the rank-and-file clubs can be achieved. I would suggest one move. A levy on any professional club signing a play-er from an amateur club whether that player is to be paid or not. The levy, fixed at say £2,000, to go direct to the "feeder" club.

Yours sincerely, MIKE SHACKEL Sanderstead, S Croydon

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daylime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

#### McRae pledges to stiffen the Saints

**Rugby League** DAVE HADFIELD

The new coach of St Helens, Shaun McRae, has promised to add defensive steel to the club's traditional flair. McRae, the former assistant coach to Australia and the Canberra Raiders, arrived to take up his post ves-terday and said that the talent was already at the club to enable them to match Wigan.

"There is a lot of work to be done," McRae said, "but the potential is there to be consistent - and that is what wins competitions."

McRae has watched tapes of Saints games, including their recent Regal Trophy final defeat by Wigan, "St Helens were very unlucky, but, at the end of the day, they didn't win. If you can be consistent in your overall performance against Wigan, then you've got a chance," he said. That is the first thing I'll be looking for."

McRae has left Canberra after six successful years, "because I fancied a change. I had it in my mind that my next move would he as a head coach. The fact that it is at St Helens is tremendous for me.

"The situation is very much like that at Canberra, where we we're scoring a lot of points but having a lot scored against us.

"We did something about the defence without spoiling the

yachts all now tuning up in

earnest in preparation for Sa-

Saints' captain, Bobbie Goulding, publicly critical of the sacking of the cluh's previous coach, Eric Hughes, made his peace with the new regime at McRae's welcoming press conference. "We were all shocked by

Eric going and no one was more disappointed than me," he said. "But I'm looking forward to working under Shaun. I know it is going to be very hard, but I'm looking forward to every minute of iL'

McRae, who was sought by other Australian clubs as well as being hotly upped as Canberra's next head coach, trained his squad yesterday and takes charge of them in a match for the first time when they meet Castleford in the Challenge Cup on Saturday.

Hughes is one of three coaches heading the field for the position at London Broncos that fell vacant when Gary Grienke was dismissed on Tuesday. Brian Johnson, who resigned at Warrington earlier this month. and Clive Griffiths, who was overlooked as his successor, are

also on a short-list of contenders. "I would be foolish not to find out whether coaches of this calthre were interested in joining us," said the club's chairman, Barry Maranta.

#### Lewis' bout with Bowe is called off

Boxing

Britain's former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis has abandoned hopes of fighting Riddick Bowe on 20 April as Bowe and his manager, Rock Newman, are in dispute with the American ca-

ble network, Home Box Office. Panos Eliades, Lewis's backer, said: "HBO and Newman have not managed to settle their differences. It must go to court and Lewis will not fight Bowe next," Eliades said. "We are looking at all other top opponents, hut it looks like Michael Moorer and Axel Schulz are not available, while Evander Holyfield is not ready.

#### TODAY'S NUMBER



The years that the 28-year-old wing defence Fiona Murtagh was vice-captain of the England netball team before tal ing over from Kendra Slawin ski, who has retired after winning a record 128 caps. Murtagh's first game as captain will be against Northern Ireland on 24 February.

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# In his great days, the late Jock Stein preached that it was pointless getting upset over decisions. It was excellent advice

Anyone like me who has been following foothall longer than it is comfortable to range than it is comfortable to remember must wonder how some of the most evil players imaginable would have made out today under the intense scrutiny of television.

Two who spring immediately to mind, both internationals who performed beguilingly in the role of what was known as a scheming inside-forward, concealed their spite with such cunning that it often went undetected hy referees and never caught the public's attention. Opponents approached them with the utmost caution but they never figured on bar room lists of the nastiest footballers. By now you have probably guessed I am coming to the con-

Ham got away with a dreadful foul on Andy Cole of Manchester United at Upton Park on Monday seconds before Nicky Butt was sent off.

The outcome is that Dicks claims he is being victimised by the Sky presenter, Andy Gray, who highlighted another incident involving him earlier this season, entering the renewed debate over the difficulties imposed on refer-

ecs by television replays.

Some sympathy is held out personally for Stephen Lodge, the less made it clear that his eyes are where you expect to find them, not positioned in his backside. "With

using all their angles and technology," he said. "They see everything. Referees have to make split-second judgements with only two angles, theirs and that of the adjacent linesman. We have to live with television but it is making the

joh a nightmare."

Times have changed, maybe for the worse, maybc for the hetter, hut it is not all that many years ago since the old Football League. through its splenetic secretary, the late Alan Hardaker, demandmatch referee, who has more or ed absolute discretion when first allowing the BBC to show televised highlights of Saturday matches. Even to criticise referces in studio the number of cameras Sky have reports was to invite the wrath of



Hardaker - who said, incidentally, that the game would he shown

live over his dead body. It is anyhody's guess how Hardaker would have reacted to today's state of affairs, but mine

Keegan

returns

without

**Asprilla** 

**NICK DUXBURY** 

is that he would have turned pur-

ple with rage. As for calling referees to account on the basis of

television replays, forget it. Doubtless on account of the trouble that seems to follow his c)uh around and perhaps suspect-ing a vendetta, the Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear has advanced what you may think to be the quite ludicrous idea of having a referee in the stands to settle controversial incidents.

To my mind, when you start talking technology in sport you start talking trouble. Where will it end? How long would it have taken at the Parc des Princes in Paris last week to establish from a television replay that Tony Underwood did not correctly ground the ball when claiming a try against Fraoce?

Twice in two weeks recently, the Pittsburgh Steelers moved towards the Super Bowl against Dallas Cowboys on Sunday with the help of illegal touchdowns. Because there is no time in the play-offs for had calls to balance themselves out

it was felt generally that the Na-tional Football League's decision to dispense with instant replays was a hlunder they will live to regret. As Dave Anderson of the New York Times put it, "It's inevitable that sooner or later Commissioner Paul Tagliahue will be presenting the Lomhardi Trophy to an undeserved team."

The incident that sparked this off came in the American Conference championship game hetween the Steelers and the

officials noticed that Kordell Stewart hod stepped out of bounds behind the end zone before catching a pass. Thus the Colts were exceedingly put out by a 20-16 loss. Different games for different

tastes, but similar problems. In his great days as manager of Celtic, the late Jock Stein preached that it was pointless getting upset over decisions hecause it interfered with concentration, and usually they evened themselves out. It was excellent advice.

Much the same can be said about decisions in cricket other than run-outs. In any case, what would the heroes do without something to moan about?

# Klinsmann faces knee operation

Football

Jürgen Klinsmann is facing a knee operation after injuring himself during a friendly for his cluh, Bayern Munich, against Cagliari in Italy on Tuesday.

Klinsmann hurt his knee when he fell awkwardly after going up for a header. The German champions are training in Sardinia during the Bundesliga's winter break, and the mjury has hit Klinsmann at a time when he has been enjoying some of the best form of his life followmg last season's successful year with Tottenham

some crucial goals this season in the national team's European Championship qualifying campaign, may miss next month's restart to the German First Division. If he needs an operation, his hopes of playing against Nottingham Forest in the Uefa Cup quarter-finals at the start

video evidence in a hid to clear

their young midfielder Nicky

Butt, following his sending-off

against West Ham at Upton

manager, is to give the Football

Association a tape of the inci-

dent which led to Butt's second

He is to ask the FA to judge

whether the referee Stephen

Lodge made a mistake - the

first time United have taken

that step since the appeal

system was changed on the in-

troduction of automatic sus-

on 5 Fehruary after his dis-

missal, hut Ferguson is con-

vinced that his player was

harshly punished when he was

shown a second vellow card for

a 75th-minute challenge on Ju-

"I thought Nicky was unfor-

Butt faces a one-match ban

booking of the game.

Alex Ferguson, the United

On his return to Germany, Klinsmann had an appointment to see the Bayern club doctor, Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt, who has a reputation for getting sportsmen back to fitness quickly. His list of pa-tients includes Boris Becker and Linford Christic.

Klinsmann's injury comes as a hlow to Bayern, who have been struggling with injuries to leading players in the past year, including French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin and Lothar Matthaus.

Papin has been unable to make an impact in Germany. while Matthaus only recently re-Klinsmann, who has scored turned to action following Achilles tendon operations and has lost his place in the German national team. German internationals Thomas Strunz aod Christian Ziege have also been struggling to get fit as the Bavarian side prepare for the second half of the season.

the next few days with the ad-

Video appeal for Butt

to Lancaster Gate in fairness to

the lad. If it is a clear sending-

off and the player deserved it we

would accept it and get on with it, but I think Nicky was very un-

Butt's dismissal was sparked by

a two-footed challenge by Dicks

on the United striker Andy

Cole, which was highlighted by

Sky Sports who were screening

The FA said yesterday that

they did not plan to take any ac-

tion over Dicks's lunge, but the

player himself was furious over

his trial by television. He

claimed Sky's pundit, Andy Gray, has a vendetta against him

after a row earlier this season

when Gray accused him of

stamping on Chelsca's John

reer out of having a go at me,"

Dicks said. "The way he keeps

A D R Compbell c Germon b Twose .... 34 C Wishart nor one 

Stream, E. A. Dies Auge. D. Couring.

Bowling: Allow 19-3-53-0; Carms 23-6-49-0

Kennedy 22-3-61-1; Patie 27-6-60-2; Lerse
5-3-8-0; Twose 3-1-5-1; Astie 1-0-4-0.

D-3-8-U: IW098 3-1-5-1: Astle 1-0-4-D.

Match drawn. Series drawn 0-0.

NEW ZEALAND WORLD CUP SQUAD: L K Germon (cept), N J Astle, C L Carris, S P Flerming, C Z Homs, R A Kennedy, G R Larsen, D Monson, D J Nesh, O N Patel, A C Pasce, S A Thomson, R G Twose, C J Speatmers.

56.00sec, cutting 0.41sec off the British record he set in the

He will be able to draw great

encouragement from having set the third-fastest time in the

world in the winter short-course

season. The victory also lifted

him into joint second place in

the World Cup overall back-

som White" was full of slinky

moves to the slow sections of the

music. His triple axel-triple toe

loop combination was slightly

flawed on the second landing

Cousins, British champioo

but not enough 10 cost him dear.

for the past seven seasons, has

been rising slowly but steadily up

the ranks and yesterday's per-

formance was one of his finest.

same pool a year ago.

"Andy Gray is making a ca-

Manchester United will use think we should send the video

visers of Brian Laudrup in an effort to secure the services of the Danish international. Laudrup's contract expires in 18 months, but Rangers are making an early move to ensure they keep one of their highest-profile players at Ibrox.

David Murray, the Rangers chairman, said: "When you have a special talent - and Brian Laudrup is a special talent - you do what you can to hold on to it. f want to see Brian Laudrup stay at Rangers and I know the Rangers supporters do as well."

Laudrup was linked with a possible move to Manchester United earlier this season and was quoted as saying he would like to link up with his Danish international team-mate Peter Schmeichel at Old Trafford.

He had a superb debut season last term, helping Rangers to a seventh successive league title and became the Professional Footballers' Associatioo Rangers will hold talks over and Football Writers' Associa-

> Bul Gray, who highlighted the incident using video play-

> hack, said: "Julian should not

know why Cole was acting like

swer on the video replay. I

thought it was a dangerous

tackle and I have seen nothing

since which will convince me

The Barnsley manager, Dan-

my Wilson, is poised to buy St

Mirren's Scotland Under-21

striker, Barry Lavety. Wilson

watched the powerful target

man last night at Hamilton and

hopes to secure a deal this

Lavety has made a success-

ful return to form this season

after a lay-off following a pos-

itive drugs test. Barnsley will

sell their unsettled striker Andy

Payton if they can push through

the Lavety signing in the next

this ooe was."

The incident which led to a madman and risking getting butt's dismissal was sparked by himself sent off. I had the an-

lieved he should have got a five per cent share of the record £8.5m transfer fee Liverpool club paid Forest last summer. Mark Hughes will start a five-match ban on Monday af-ter referee Robbie Hart refooted tackles can be fair and fused to back down over his sending-off of the Wales strik-

pay the cluh record fee.

er against Evertoo 10 days ago. Lee Chapman, the veteran striker on secondment at Leeds. so lost his appeal a sending-off and will begin a three-match ban on Saturday which covers the rest of his loan spell from Ipswich.

Vinnie Jones has agreed personal terms with Birmingham City, who are now waiting for Wimbledon to accept an offer of £300,000, plus £100,000 should they win promotion to the Premiership.

Sheffield United have offered Stoke £300,000 for the defender Lee Sandford, Ronnie Ekelund the Danish international midfielder, has joined Coventry on loan from Barcelona with a view to a £500,000 transfer.

lpswich's leading scorer, Alex Mathie, will miss Saturday's FA Cup fourth round home tie against Walsall after suffering a shoulder injury.



Having a ball: the Royal Air Force paid a flying visit to Iffley Road yesterday, their scrum-half preparing to take possession as his side shaded a tight encounter, beating Oxford University 23-22

Photograph: Peter Jay

#### Gunnell targets date for comeback race

Sally Gunnell is lined up to race in Britain for the first time for nearly 18 months at the AAA Indoor Championships in Birmingham on 3 to 4 February.

It would be a 400 metres to test her fitness and competitiveness before the Olympic sea-son, in which she defends the 400m hurdles title in Atlanta. A race in Stuttgart on 4 February

has also been pencilled in. Jonathan Marks, a spokesman for Gunnell, who is training in South Africa, said: "The likelihood is that it will be Birmingham, but a final decision has not yet been made."

Her last domestic appearance was in the World Cup at Crystal Palace in September 1994. way, the injury was not such a bad thing."

Kenya's Peter Rono has re-She had to write off last year and her defence of the world title in Gothenhurg - because of a heel injury which later needed surgery. All that the British women's team captain man-

aged was two low-key 400m races in Germany.
Gunnell, who will be 30 on the day of the hurdles semi-finals in Atlanta, was on crutches for a month before starting the long hanl back to regaining fitness. "It's been a very frustrating time, but there was never a moment when I thought of giving up," she said. "I feel

vived his Olympic dreams eight years after winning the 1500m gold medal in Seoul and will return to competition next month. Rono, who had virtually dis-

appeared from the sport in recent years, will take part as a guest in a race at the Belgian national championships on 4 Pebruary before running the 1500m at an international meeting in Ghent on 7 February, according to the Ghent organiser, Wilfried Meert.

Meert said Rono, who will turn 29 five days before the At-lanta Games, had been working recharged and maybe, in one hard in recent months to pre-

pare for his return. To qualify for Atlanta, Rooo must first survive the testing pre-Olympic trials in Kenya which, Meert said, were likely to take place in late

The Hungarian middle-distance runner Sandor Iharos. who set 11 world records, died yesterday of heart failure in Budapest at 65. From May 1955 to July 1956, Tharos set records at 3,000m (7min 55.6sec), two miles (8:33.4), 1500m (3:40.8), 5,000m (13:40.6), three miles (13:14.2), six miles (27:43.8) and 10,000m (28:42.8). Iharos never won an Olympic medal and missed the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne because of the Soviet Union's invasioo of Hungary.

#### All square for New Zealand

Ruckwood breaks own record

Cousins finds his best form

tunate to go off because he got going on about me, I'll be on an the ball OK," Ferguson said. "I FA charge again soon. Two-

Spencer.

Levis W

lian Dicks.

Set 367 to win, Zimbabwe's batsmen failed to mount a serious challenge as the second Test against New Zealand in Auckland tailed off into a draw yesterday. Despite an opening stand of 120 from Grant Flower and Stuart Carlisle, the tourists batted out the final day at their leisure to finish at 246 for 4.

(Finel day: New Zealand won tose) w Zeeland – First lunings 251 (Flerring 84, Caures 5?). Caints 57). Zimbowe – First Inclings 326 (Houghton 104). New Zedland – Second Innings 441-5 dec Spenman 112, Twose 94, Caints 120).

Adam Ruckwood rounded off

the Sheffield World Cup meet

with a flourish last night by

hreaking his British 200 metres

backstroke record and giving his

Olympic preparations a sur-

Steven Cousins is lying third af-

ter the men's short programme

at the European Figure Skating

Championships in Sofia be-

hind Ukraine's Viacheslav

Zagorodnink and the defending

champion, Ilva Kulik of Russia.

"Cherry Pink and Apple Blos-

Cousins' routine to the tune

ice skating

The Commonwealth cham-

pion won the final in 1min stroke rankings.

American football

Bill Walsh, who guided the San Francisco 49ers to three Super Bowl titles, is re-joining the team as an essistant head coach to work on 49ers' offense. Marc Trestman remains offensive co-ordina-tor under head coach, George Seifen.

Athletics

Daniela Bartova, of the Czech Republic, broke the women's world indoor pole vault record when clearing 4.20 metres at a meeting in Prague yesserday. She beat the mark set last February by Sun Calyun, of China, by five cent

**Badminton** 

Britain's Joanne Wright and Julie Bradbury, seeded fourth in the women's dou-bles at the South Korean Open in Seoul, DIES at the South Korean Open in Seoul, yesterday went through to the semi-fi-nals by beating Marina Yakusheve and Elena Rybkina, of Russia, 15-3, 3-15, 14-4. In the men's singles Britian's Dar-ren Hall was beaten 18-14, 15-6 by Kim Hak-Kyun, of South Korea.

Basketball

INCLUSION IN THE PROPERTY OF A CONCEPT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

WZLSH NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSIP (Lighted) Semi-Smale: Cleans Merby St M Mor-gan (Light) 7-17-6; I Proc Gwersey Itt B Pow-ell (Por. Tabor) 7-4 7-5.

SECOND (INDER-18 TEST (Plenare) Second day of four. Zondative 47 P. Hustison 5-11: and 13 for 2: Syglang 344 for 7 day (I) Nash 65no, O Sales 50.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football POTUDBIH

LENGUE OF WRITES: Lianet v Atan Lido (7.30).

PONTINS LENGUE First Division: Lespool
v Sheffield Utd (7.3) for Southborn. Second
Division Gromsby v Basadord (7.0); Aston Vita
v Sunderland (7.0).

LINIUET SUSSEX COUNTY LENGUE First
Division: Peacetraver & Telscombe v Crowborough Advisor (7.30).

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCH: Askeans y Spanel Univ (7.30). Other sports BOWLS: CIS Welst Masters (Lianett)

SPORTING DIGEST Football AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP (South Africa) Group A (Johnnenburg: South Africa D Egypt 1 (El Kass), (Durbruc): Angola 3 (Orners-Bylck 25), Mouyerne 82, Vicense oggóf Cameroon 3 (Jony pen 38, Pauleo 57, Quincyho 80), Finel Group A stand-lentes Services

gold 1. South Affects and Egyp1 quality for quarter-lands.

PREMIET AND PRIST DIVISION SUSPENSIONS: Sendings Offs T Roberts (OPF) 1. match from 31 into 19 Premiets (OPF) 1. match from 31 into 19 int

A Editional Color County 2 mistrices from 23 Jan. 33 Pennity Protects; "M Hinghan (Chelcas) 2 mistrices from 23 Jan. 33 Pennity Protects; "M Hinghan (Chelcas) 2 mistrices from 23 Jan. THESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Cup thirdround replay: Oldman 2 Bernsley 1 Oldman sway to Swendon Town. Anglo-Itadian Cup semi-final: Josence 7 Port Visit 4. Endylsight Insurrance Langue Second Dithistor. Bischool 1 Wycombo 1; Has Cup O Brighton Co Robertman 2 Bradton Cup 0; Whesham 0 Bristol City 0. Than Dissort Mansfeld 2 Cambridge Und 1; Pymouth 1 Sounthorpe 3; Scathorough 1 Roomade 1. Bears Seet-Loth Langue Permitter Division: Fallon 0 Mortan 2 Cambridge 1 Division: Fallon 0 Mortan 2; Purritar-ton 1 Dundes 2: St. Ichmaton 3 Cydebana 1; Bern 0 Perseck 2. Division: Anton 0 Mortan 2; Purritar-ton 1 Dundes 2: St. Ichmaton 3 Cydebana 1; Bern 0 Perseck 2. Division: Friends on Mortan 2; Purritar-ton 1 Dundes 2: St. Ichmaton 3 Cydebana 1; Bern 0 Perseck 2. Division: Friends 2 Bear 1; Purritar-ton 1 Dundes 2: St. Ichmaton 3 Cydebana 1; Bern 0 Perseck 2. Their Division: Brechma 3 Nico C. Cat 1 Protect 1 Rependent 1; Purritar-ton 1 Dundes 2: St. Ichmaton 2 Perseck 2; Purritar-ton 1 Dundes 2: St. Ichmaton 2 Perseck 2; Purritar-ton 3 Bears 0; Starpheron 2; Perseck 2; Purritar-ton 3 Bears 0; Starpheron 2; Perseck 2; Purritar-ton 2; Bear 1; Purritar-ton 3; Perseck 0; Purritar-ton 3; Perseck 1; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 5; Purritar-ton 2; Purritar-ton 3; Purritar-ton 3; Purritar-ton 3; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 5; Purritar-ton 2; Purritar-ton 3; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 3; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 4; Purritar-ton 5; Purritar-ton 6; Purritar-ton 6; Purritar-ton 6; Purritar-ton 6; Purritar-ton 6; Purritar-ton 7; Purritar-ton 6; Purritar-ton 7; Purritar-ton 6; Purritar-ton 7; Purritar-ton 7; Purritar-ton 7; Purritar-ton 8; Purritar-ton 7; Purritar-

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Basil Steer, formerly a selector for both England and the Britain and Ireland Walker Cup side, has been appointed president of the English Golf Union. president of the Engish Golf Union.
The Jersey Open is being transferred to the European Seniors Tour this season. Another European Tour schedulc change is that the British Masters at Colfingnee Park in Northampson will now be the first qualifying tournament for next year's Ryder Cup.

Hockey
OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT
(Darcalone) Fifth dieje Carnada 1 Maleysia 2; Indio 2 Belanus O; Spain 2 Great Britain 2; Belgum 4 Necherlands 9, Standings, affare 4
gameers 1 Necherlands Spis; 2 Spain 6; 3 indio 6; 4 Maleysia 6; 6 Great Britain 5; 6 Carnaca 3; 7 Belanus O; 8 Belgum O.

ice bocker

Ice skating

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: Z2pts 1728,971.50, 22 52,264.55, 21 5129.30, 20 519.80, 19 54.15, Part draws £32.05, 10 homes: £17.45, Rive aways: £123.45.

VERNORES: Troble chance: 22pts £6.728.45. 21.£59.55, 20 £6.55, 19 £1.50, 10 houses: £20.20. Five amoys: £14.65.

Switzmanning
WorkD CUP MEETING (Sheffleid, final day)
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1:47.59, 95; 2 S Cameron (RV) 15:18, 91: 3 S Fennporo (fin 15:28, 25.8, 100cm fineststroket; 1 Chypu Ding (Ohite) 1:50.57; 2 0 Maich (CZ Rep)
1:50.47; 3 G Schmid (LS) 1:01.75, 100cm bartberfly: 1 M Misposev (Chy) 53.62; 2 D Kalchev
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London (CR) 15: 300cm benistroket; 17 Karlo (Chro) 25.12; 2 N William
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London (CR) 15 Bening (LS) 25 December (LS) 25 Decem stroke: 1.7 Nario (Croa) 25.12; 2.1 Willy (Ber-net Coptrib) 25.22; 3.0 Fernad (Car) 25.55, 200ea bactetroke: 1.4 Ruchavood (City of Britingherin 156.00 (British record); 2.0 Renaud (Car) 1.55.7.48; 3.4 O'Connor (Rep Irl 1.55.7.1 (Insh-record), 200m mediay; 1.) Sevinen (Fin) 2.01.65; 2.0 Myden (Car) 2.02.25; 3.1 N.Cas (Croa) 2.02.96; Wespein's finale; 1.00m freestyle: 1.5 Roby (City of Newcastel) 55.73; 2.9 Volazinen (Nor) 56.54; 3.1 Arrey (Car) 56.90, 400m freestyle; 1.1 Dol-hy Mord 4:11.17; 2.0 Romain (Nor) 4.13.65; 3.0 necy (Carr) 4:14.40. Step broastetroke: r (Non 32.27; 2 S Brownsdon (City of Co 32.35; 3 A Wilson (NZ) 33.D7. 200m bre

stroigt 1 M Hersimen (Cly of Brininghem) 228.43; 2 T Miller (Nor) 2-31.07; 3 F Basia (t) 2-33.27; 180m backstroket: 1 S Proc (Barnet Copyral) 1:02.97; 2 W Growes (Loughborous) shalema

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Britain's Chris Wilkinson beat the No 3 seed, Fredenk Fetterlein, of Denmark, 7-6, 4-6, 6-2 in the second round of the ATP Challenger event in Heilbronn, Germany yesterday. Wilkinson now takes on Poland'a Wortek Kowatski in the quarter-finals.

Britain's Martin Lee and James Trouman Britain's Martin Lee and James Troman moved into the third round of the boys' doubles at the Australian Open in Melbource yesterday, with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Mark Fitzpatnck of Australia and Germany's Benjamin Osterbrink, Australia and Germany's Benjamin Osterbrink, Australia Australia Molang (Isl) in Milbourne (Isl

snow reports 23.1 24.1 23.1 ITALY 95% 100% 100% 24.1 23.1 24.1 SWITZERLAND 100% 75% 7.1 24.1 INDORRA Resort still closed by snow and strong winds) SZIÓN SCOTLAND 23.1 war.dy Show irdometion supplied by Ski Huting 5-3 2-3 15-14. A number of cent for a monotonizar (Spit 4-6 6-2 6-1: A Contrar (SA) by M Mings (Smit 7-5 4-6 6-1. Doubles, quanter-finales: L Davenport, and M J Fernandez (US) for L Raymond (US) and G Sabetini (Ang. 6-3 4-6 6-2: M McCarth (US) and L Nelland (Las) by E Misland And Carth (US) and L Misland (Las) by E Misland (Las) (Las)

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£40,000 to be won

See Page 22



# CHRIS NICHOLL

Waiting for happy hour

# Schoolboy steps on England ladder

**Rugby Union** STEVE BALE

It would be too much to imagine England of all rugby nations taking a risk as mordinate as fielding a teenager, but yesterday the selectors did the next best thing when they plucked an 18-year-old Yorkshire schoolboy from the obscurity of the Third Division and inserted him in their squad.

Though Paul Sampson comes highly recommended, the England manager, Jack Rowell, has never actually seen him play. It would, therefore, metaphorically speaking, bring down the temple walls if Sampson were to go from here and win a place in the team to play Wales at Twickenham on Saturday

Sampson

on fast

track to

senior

selection

moned in trepidation to the study of his headmaster, David

Welsh, Paul Sampson left it a

member of the England rugby

expect when I went in there,"

Paul Sampson said, "hut as

soon as I saw him smiling I re-

laxed. When he told me the

news I just felt disbelief. It's

been an absolutely crazy day."

derment, though, there is a

cool side to the new boy in Eng-

land's ranks. In one breath he

says: "It will be a dream come

in at the deep end."

For all the apparent bewil-

"I wasn't really sure what to

DAVID LLEWELLYN

union squad.

week. For now, a visit to Twickenham on Sunday to train with the 21 who formed the match squad in France plus eight others will do perfectly well, both for the player and his country.

Sampson plays his rugby for Otley, where he is coached by the former England captain, Nigel Melville. He was England Schools' full-back in last sea-son's defeats of Australia and by New Zealand, but was subsequently moved to the wing. It is in the latter position that he is apparently under greater consideration - insofar as he is at all at present - with pressure thought to be mounting on England's most capped player, Rory Underwood, and other contenders such as Tony Underwood, Ian Hunter ENGLAND TRANSPAR SQUAD (Five National Championship v Wales, Saharday 3 February); Buckes M Catt (Both), P Sampson (Oldy), J Selgistholas (Sath), W Cacling (Hertquina), Gescott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester), P

and James Naylor all injured. Rowell has incessantly complained this season that, among other things, the developmental aspects of England rugby has been so neglected that he has no chance of a seamless transition from the old era of Andrew, Moore, etc to the new. In this context, Sampson's elevation now is intended to make his fu-

INTERNATIONAL SQUADS

ture progression, if he proves so inclusion of three back row worthy, as painless as possible. There is an excitement in reaching so far down the supply chain," Rowell said. "The hope is that when he develops later on and returns to the international squad he will not be overawed." Having lost in France, England have a number of issues to

Robinson – as the only additions to the forwards. Adedayo Adebayo is another extra wing and Damian Hopley has played there twice for England this season. Alex King and Will Greenwood, like Sampson, are there

men - Rodber, Diprose and

for the experience. Nothing radical should be ex-

pected when the team is finalised, at the weekend France, by contrast, will have to make at least one change. Yesterday the French federation hrought the Richard Dourthe affair to its logical conclusion by sus-France before the seniors lost. pending the 2I-year-old centre for 30 days, taking in the Five Nations matches in Scotland on On the other hand, the se-Saturday week and against Ire-

land in Paris a fortnight later. After issuing an anguished mea culpa on Tuesday for the rush of adrenalin which he says caused him to stamp on Ben Clarke's exposed head, Dourthe expected nothing less. He told the federation he would accept whatever punishment it saw fit. The Scotland selectors, meanwhile, yesterday left their team unchanged from that which

The smooth progression into the full England side that Rowell desires is strangely served by the half-dozen changes in the A team to play New South Wales in Leicester on Wednesday. England A, remember, won in

lection does have the advantage of allowing the selectors to view a wider range of would-be internationalists, the most significant introduction heing Austin Healey's at scrum-half. As the Orrell player has the speed of the wing he used to be as well as burgeoning scrum-half skills, he could be challenging Matthew Dawson and Kyran

Bracken, hefore long. Sporting Digest, page 23



Advanced level: Paul Sampson (centre) celebrates his call-up to the England rugby union squad with schoolfriends yesterday

true to sit alongside the likes of Jerry Guscott, Will Carling and Rory Underwood. I didn't ex-Sampson is a born sportsman. pect in the slightest that I would His father, Brian, and his uncles get the opportunity at this stage all played professional rugby league for Wakefield; cousin Dean, a Castleford prop, was in In the next, however, he talks calmly of the possibility of rethe England rugby league World placing Underwood - Eng-Cup squad last year, another land's record try-scorer and cousin, Denise Ramsden, was a most-capped player. "It's a nice member of the Great Britain thought, but I am not thinking 4x100m relay team at the Monalong those lines for the motreal Olympics and his mother, ment. It's just the practical Christine, is a former England thing of being with them and ab-Schools high jump champion. Sampson and Joe Ewens, the sorbing some of the atmosphere, rather than being thrown

Colston's Collegiate School cen-

boy prospects around. Sampson himself is a serious sprinter -Yorkshire Under-20 champion at 60m, 100m and 200m. "Rugby and athletics complement each other," he said. "Rugby gives me strength and stamina; athletics gives me the speed."

His school coach, Roger Howard, said: "I have never seen anything as fast on a rug-by field." His headmaster said: "He is solid, hut not a giant in any way. He is a tremendous athlete, is very fast and has a lot tre are two of the hottest school- of rugby skills to ally to that. He

is a lively, ebullient young man. am immensely impressed." There's always a sparkle and a lot of humour about him."

John Elliott, the Rughy Football Union's National Player Development Officer and more importantly an England selecthe England Colts trial and, while insisting that a sense of proportion had to be main- lifted the 60m title with a run tained over Sampson's elevation, said last night: "He is very quick and he has a lot of skills. week Sampson's ambition was He is stocky, well-huilt and from what I have seen of him I

His speed is undeniably his greatest asset. He has a personal

best of 10.7sec for the I00m. Last Sunday, as the England Colts training weekend down at Castlecroft near Wolverhamptor, watched the 18-year-old, in ton came to an end, Sampson's parents picked him and whisked back up to Sheffield where he helped me a tremendous of 6.94 – an Under-20 championship record. Yet this time last simply to make it into the England Colts team for their match

later this season against Italy. Sampson, who has scored six tries - including a hat-trick - since making his first XV de-but for Third Division Otley ear-lier this season, cites Nigel Melville, the former England scrum-half, as a major influence on his rugby career. "He has amount, introducing me gradually to senior rugby and in particular to playing on the wing." And the player Sampson holds in greatest esteem is Paul Hull.

Full-back is his favoured po-

Photograph: Victoria Matthers

sition, although this season he has also turned out at stand-off for his school. "I like Paul Hull's style of play," says Sampson. "He is a runner and I like to think of myself as a running full-back."

Whether England regard him as a running full-back or a fullhlown wing is anyone's guess, but they will not stand in the way of his development. Elliott said: "If he shows promise then we wouldn't bold a guy back. We look for fast tracking." They will not find a fast tracker much quicker than Paul Sampson.

# Agassi makes a miracle recovery

Tennis

Andre Agassi won a dramatic five-set quarter final against Jim Courier in the Australian Open vesterday to regain the world No ranking from Pete Sampras. For the first time in a major

tournament. Agassi clawed his way back from two sets down. He said: "In men's tennis, when you're two sets and a break down, it's time for a miracle."

The miracle he needed came with the immediate break of his old rival's serve after Courier had broken in the first game of the third set. Agassi, who at his best can demoralise any opponent with his returns of serve. suddenly raised his game and never looked in serious jeopardy for the remainder of the match.

He broke Courier a further four times to win 6-7. 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in three hours 18 minutes of ferocious tennis and set up a semi-final against Michael Chang. Courier had won their six previous meetings and Agassi said: "It was nice to get over that hurdle."

Agassi was joined in the last four by the unseeded Australian Mark Woodforde - a surprise winner over the seventh seed Thomas Enqvist - and Boris Becker, who thrashed Yevgeny

Woodforde's 6-4. 6-4, 6-4 win over Enqvist was built around his near-flawless serving and play at the net, forcing his more powerful opponent on to the back foot. Woodforde is the first Australian to play in a semi-final at Flinders Park since Pat Cash in 1988, and he was cheered to victory by a fiercely partisan crowd.

Woodforde, ranked 67 in the world, collapsed on his back in disbelief as he reached a Grand Slam semi-final for the first time at the 38th attempt. "It is quite incredible - I don't have enough words in my vocabulary to describe how I feel about it," he said. "It's such a sweet feeling."

Kafelnikov's prediction that he could win his first Grand Slam title was made to look rather foolish by Becker, who was in irresistible form during his 6-4, 7-6, 6-I victory.

Becker overwhelmed Kafelnikov with booming serves and a harrage of sharp volleys. Kafelnikov could only watch in awe and he conceded: "That's what makes the difference between a great player and a good player. There is no ques-tion Boris is a great player." Results, Sporting Digest, page 23

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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12 Procrastinating one: ruler in

action! (9)
13 Assist Welsh in career (6) 15 Lay out money for former husband to write to daughter

16 Lewis, perhaps, embracing Irish copper in city square?

18 I'm in charge of consultancy 6 21 A gathering place where

Salt that is capturing Dido's fancy (6) Deceitful untruth about the North: "you can't cross this

border by car! (6,5,4) Like Pluto, wholly? That sounds right (5)

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## Venables attempts to forge Dutch masters

Football CLIVE WHITE

Terry Venables will wear his

heart on his sleeve when England host this summer's European Championship finals, but his head will rule in all things emotional. It is the lesson he learned from his hitter experience at Tottenham and the reason why he will not change his mind about resigning as coach. whatever the outcome in June. Emotional pressure from

Tottenham fans had tempted him into the ill-fated partnership with Alan Sugar and he would not make the same mistake again. "At Tottenbam I made a heart decision not a head decision and I got overstretched trying to repair my own damage," he said. "I vowed then that I would always make decisions in future with my head. Once is a mistake, twice is foolish.

Even being back among his players this week at England's training camp at Bisham Ahbey has failed to prompt a U-turn. But when it comes to football tactics Venables has never been averse to a change in direction, which is what he intends to make in the case of Euro 96. If you can't beat them, join

Consequently the three-day get-together with his players down by the Thames this week was not so much about all things English as all things

In all probability the Netherlands, their group opponents, stand between England and the latter stages of the finals, if not ultimate victory itself, and Venables believes in order to remove that obstacle the hosts will not only have to beat them but beat them at their own game.

Hence the decision to base much of this week's practice and theory on how to counter the Dutch threat and, at the same time, give the opposition a taste of their own medicine. Like the Dutch. Venables has been concentrating on playing with just three flexible defenders as opposed to the popular English ploy of three centre-backs. He is also contemplating imposing his own tactics on the Dutch when they meet, by deploying a central attacker with two wide

players to stretch the Dutch trio. It all sounds uncannily like the old "WM" formation, but we are reliably informed that it is revolutionary. Of course, its going to take more than Tony Adams in dreadlocks to play like the Dutch and Venahles em-

them, seems to be his attitude. phasised the need for English players to prove they can be adaptable. "I always believe every time you go up a notch, you've got to achieve more things," he said. "If you're going to play against world-class players and world-class thinkers you've got to open those minds

> He was impressed by how well the players did take on board the new ideas. To a certain extent, some players, such as Aston Vilia's Gareth Southgate and Ugo Ehiogu, are already familiar with such tactics, while Sol Campbell and Gary Neville have proved their versatility at Tottenham and Manchester United respectively. "I got a very good feedback,'

enables said. Copying Dutch masters, whether it be Van Gogh or Van Basten, is, of course, easier said than done, as Venables would be the first to admit. Apart from Barcelona under Cruvff, I don't think anyone in the world can play the way they play. There must be a reason for that because people like to copy success. I think in certain areas you could actually improve on it hut you've got to have receptive and strong

Ken Jones, page 23

#### Sedykh offered Olympic incentive

Athletics

Yuri Sedykh, the double Olympic hammer champion, is being offered substantial cash incentives by the Russian authorities to tempt him into competing at the

Olympic Games.
The former world 100 metres hundles champion Lyudmila Enquist, née Narozhilenko, is also among the athletes offered eration, said. "But we can offer £34,000 per gold medal, plus great wealth to anyone who

£34.000 to the winning coach, while the regional government of St Petersburg will chip in another £68,000. The Russian track federation and its sponsor, Reebok, could hring the total jackpot for a gold medal to £170,000.
"Our facilities are still not

good and the standard of living leaves a lot to he desired. Valentin Balakhnichev, president of the Russian athletics fed-

wins gold for Russia in Atlanta.' Twenty years after winning gold in Montreal, Sedykh, now 40 and living in Paris, might be returning for his fourth Games. He also won gold in Moscow in 1980 and silver in 1988.

Enquist, 31, was reinstated last month by the International Amateur Athletic Federation when a four-year drug han, imposed in 1993, was quashed by Russian courts. She is now living in Sweden.

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